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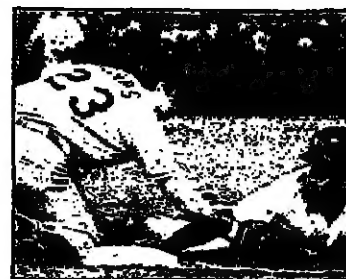
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# PM links Har Homa to next redeployment

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The Har Homa tenders, which sources have said could have been issued weeks if not months ago, will only be published after an agreement is reached on the percentage of the second redeployment, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told leading Likud MKs yesterday.

"Bibi is waiting, and I know it from the horse's mouth," said MK Ruvy Rivlin. "He is waiting for the decision on the second redeployment."

A delay based on political considerations flies in the face of all pronouncements made by Netanyahu and other government officials over the last 13 months. He has repeatedly stated that building on Har Homa is no different than building in any other neighborhood of Jerusalem, and that the "eternal, undivided capital" is not up for political discussion.

Sources in the Israel Lands Administration have said that everything has been ready for tenders to be issued since January. Government officials have repeatedly stated since December that tenders would be issued in the first quarter of the year.

Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan denied last night that there is any political consideration in construction on the controversial hill. "There is absolutely no intention to delay the building on Har Homa," he said. Rivlin said Netanyahu does not want to appear to be provoking the political situation while negotiations are ongoing over the next stage of redeployment.

"If he would do it now, it's as if

he's saying, 'not only am I not going to get to the redeployment, to negotiate the further redeployment, I am going to build just now in those territories that I believe it is not a settlement,'" Rivlin said. "He wants to put it as a part of the whole idea. He wants to say to the Americans, 'I am not provoking by going to Har Homa, but this is a necessity. And you have to know that I am not asking for any kind of permission, but you have to understand that actually Israel is going to build on Har Homa. For the time being I'm not doing so not

because this is not the [right] timing, because I don't want to show anyone that I am provoking, because it could be alleged as a provocation." MK Benny Elon (Moledet) said that "if this information is real, it is a bankruptcy of the policy that Netanyahu built. When he said that Jerusalem, as a principle, has nothing to do with timing or political negotiations, and especially not with the further withdrawal procedure, it means that the prime minister has reneged on all the policies of the party, and the national

camp." Elon said he would recommend that his party submit a motion of no confidence "at the first opportunity. Many of us had personal meetings and spoke with him about it, and he said it is not political. If this information is correct, it absolutely is enough reason to vote no confidence." The controversial issue of Har Homa has been a rallying cry for right-wing Knesset members for months. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert has often said he would challenge

Netanyahu for the leadership of the Likud Party if the premier does not move forward on the project. Spokesman Hagai Elias said last night that Olmert declined to comment this week, because he is sitting shiva for his father. Michael Kleiner, leader of the Land of Israel Front, has repeatedly threatened to be absent along with the other Land of Israel Front members from Knesset votes that would support the government.

See HAR HOMA, Page 22

## Hamas blames PA for Sharif's death

By STEVE RODAN and SARAH HONIG

The Palestinian Authority was put on the defensive yesterday by Hamas charges it was involved in the death of bombmaker Muhi Sharif.

As thousands of militants at his funeral called for revenge attacks against Israel, Hamas leaders jettisoned their initial caution and challenged PA officials to publicly blame Israel for Sharif's death or admit that it participated in what they termed his assassination.

"I'm calling on the PA to quickly find out the identities of the criminal killers, because the lack of clarity in this matter is very dangerous for the Palestinian people," Hamas leader Sheikh Tayseir Tamimi said.

The 6,000 people accompanying Sharif's body to a cemetery in El-Bireh shouted "Kassam, Kassam, revenge, revenge," referring to the Hamas military wing. Later, they threw stones at IDF soldiers at the nearby settlement of Psagot.

"We want to hear explosions in Tel Aviv," a crowd of women chanted at the funeral, which was also attended by PA officials, the most senior of them cabinet member Faisal Hussein. "Blow them up. Blow them up," they cried.



Thousands of Palestinians attend the funeral of Muhi Sharif in El-Bireh, near Ramallah, yesterday.

Other Palestinian officials included Patah leader Marwan Barghout and PLO Executive Committee member Sakher Habash. PA policemen stayed away from the funeral march. Israeli security officials said they are taking the threats of

revenge seriously and have warned their PA counterparts of "serious consequences" should the Islamic organization succeed in staging bloody attacks. The officials said they are concerned Hamas might obtain some sort of "green light" from PA Chairman

Yasser Arafat to carry out terrorist outrages. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned the PA yesterday against inciting to terror in the aftermath of Sharif's death.

See HAMAS, Page 22

## US threatens to leave peace process

By HILLEL KUTTLER and news agencies

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright warned Israel and the Palestinians yesterday that if their stalemate continues, the US may have to end its involvement in the peace process.

Albright called the negotiations "stymied" and said the US continues to weigh its next step.

While the US is doing "the best we can to narrow the gaps," the leaders are responsible for making progress, Albright said, in response to a question about the limits of US engagement, at a forum of the American Society of Newspaper Executives.

"We will make the kind of assessment that you're talking about, if, in fact, we see there is no progress," she said. "At some stage, this process of us trying to push when they are not making the hard decisions will have to conclude."

Albright's comments were the third since US envoy Dennis Ross's return this week from the region that she, or her spokesman, have discussed the possibility of American disengagement from the negotiations.

However, some observers here believe that such statements are a tactic to maintain pressure on the parties, since Albright acknowledged on Tuesday that some progress was made in his trip.

Asked if the US has already reached the point where it should step back, Albright responded: "I am not prepared to say that at this very moment. But I think we have to see. This last series of talks that Dennis Ross had produced some small steps. We want to see where they lead before we make that determination."

Ross was due to brief the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations late yesterday on his recent Middle East tour. The conference's executive vice-chairman Malcolm

Hoenlein said the group hopes that Ross will return to the Middle East to continue exploring the ideas discussed so far.

In a speech to Likud mayors in Herzliya, Netanyahu reiterated his stand that the Oslo process has not met its end. "We are still trying to bridge the gaps," he said. "What is needed is a creative effort and not only on our part. We are trying and the contacts are continuing."

Netanyahu also categorically denied that a national unity coalition is in the offing and that clandestine negotiations are already under way. "I have nothing against national unity," he said.

Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky met yesterday with Ross and had a later meeting scheduled with Albright on the US's continuing effort to pursue a breakthrough in the talks. Sharansky met earlier in the day with US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky.

In Cairo, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the US to put aside its failure to resume the talks and do more to end the impasse.

"The United States should come up with its own initiative, otherwise the situation will be talks with Netanyahu President Julio Maria Sanguinetti at Sharm el-Sheikh."

The alternative for not moving toward peace and giving the Palestinians back their land is violence and terrorism," Mubarak said. But Mubarak cast doubts on Ross's effort to end the deadlock. "There was no initiative and there should be one. I do not understand," said Mubarak.

He again blamed Netanyahu for what he described as "blocking" efforts to restart talks. Mubarak said that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat told him that he accepts the American proposal "in principle."

Sarah Honig contributed to this report.

## Papon sentenced to 10 years

BORDEAUX, France - Frenchman Maurice Papon was sentenced to 10 years in prison on war crimes charges yesterday as a court found him guilty of rounding up Jews for deportation to Nazi death camps.

The jury, rendering its verdict after more than 18 hours of deliberation, found Papon, 87, guilty of complicity in crimes against humanity but not responsible for his victims' murder.

Most of those deported never returned.

The white-haired Papon, a senior official in the collaborationist Vichy government, sat motionless, his chin in his hand. He showed no emotion as the verdict by the jury of three judges and nine civilians was announced.

Civil parties and Jewish organizations expressed their disappointment that Papon was not given a life sentence.

"We are not satisfied by the sentence, but we are happy that justice has been done," said Alain Jakubowicz, a lawyer for Jewish organizations in the case against Papon.

Civil party lawyer Francis Jacob said the conviction would be remembered as the first-ever sanction of a Vichy official for persecuting Jews.

"That's what future generations will read in their history books," he said.

Israelis expressed muted satisfaction.

"It's a muted victory and a sad day because the millions of innocent people who were killed can never be brought back," said Deputy Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, a Holocaust survivor.

See PAPON, Page 12

## Clinton buoyed by ruling

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - As US President Bill Clinton savored dismissal of the Paula Jones case, prosecutor Kenneth Starr pressed his investigation of the White House sex scandal by hauling Clinton's top aide before a grand jury yesterday.

White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles was subpoenaed to testify less than 18 hours after a judge in Little Rock, Arkansas, threw out all charges in Jones's sexual harassment suit against Clinton, saying the case was too flimsy to merit trial.

"It doesn't matter who wins and who loses in the civil case. What matters from the criminal law's perspective [is] were crimes com-

mitted," Starr told reporters as he left his suburban Virginia home yesterday morning.

The Jones case was the catalyst for Starr's criminal probe of an alleged conspiracy by Clinton, former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and others to cover up lewd behavior by lying and obstruction of justice.

Starr is probing whether Clinton carried on an affair with Lewinsky and tried to hide it by perjuring himself in the lawsuit and alone or with others pressuring the young woman to give a false affidavit to Jones's lawyers.

See CLINTON, Page 22

## Survey: Local youth moody, anxious

By JUDY SIEGEL

The good news is that Israeli Jewish youth, on average, have lots of friends, plenty of self-confidence and a positive relationship

with their parents. The bad news is that many report feeling depressed, moody and anxious and suffer from frequent stomachaches and headaches.

These are some of the findings of the first Israeli national Health Behavior in School-Aged Children (HBSC) survey, conducted in May and June 1994 and only now included in a new book, which compares their condition with youngsters in 23 countries in Europe and North America.

The book, *Youth in Israel: Social Well-Being, Health and Risk Behaviors from an International Perspective*, was published by JDC-Brookdale and Bar-Ilan University researchers who conducted the local survey. Next month, another round of the HBSC survey will be conducted here and in 34 other countries, providing an opportunity to moni-

tor trends over time. It will include a representative sample of Arabs, a group not included in the 1994 poll.

A representative sample of 7,637 Jewish pupils in the sixth through eleventh grades of state and state religious schools were compared with 102,799 others aged 11, 13 and 15 abroad.

Their answers provide the first comprehensive picture of Israeli youth, said Dr. Yossi Harel, who headed the research team in cooperation with the Health and Education ministries.

The study found that Israeli youngsters are much less likely to smoke or drink alcohol, especially at young ages, than their counterparts in Europe.

They also are able to talk to their parents about things bothering them, and their parents, are very willing to be involved in their education.

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|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Jerusalem  | 6:22 p.m. | 7:37 p.m. |
| Tel Aviv   | 6:40 p.m. | 7:39 p.m. |
| Haifa      | 6:33 p.m. | 7:38 p.m. |
| Beer Sheva | 6:37 p.m. | 7:36 p.m. |
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## NEWS

in brief

## US bill linking embassy moves shelved

A US Senate bill that would withhold funds from the administration for moving the US Embassy in Germany from Bonn to Berlin unless the US breaks ground for a new embassy in Jerusalem was not introduced, as expected, before Congress recessed this week.

Israeli Embassy officials say the bill may not be very effective in forcing the administration's hand, but is a demonstration of Congress's goodwill on the issue. The administration's recent semi-annual report on progress towards relocating the embassy to Jerusalem maintained that such a move "must be considered in the context" of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

Hillel Kuntler

## News Datacom to pay tax authorities NIS 15 m.

News Datacom Research, controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, will pay the Income Tax Authority NIS 15 million. This follows more than two years of investigation of the company on suspicion it had evaded tens of millions of dollars in taxes.

NDR will pay NIS 11 m. in forfeit for the period from 1989 through 1992, prior to the Murdoch group's acquisition of the firm. In addition, the company will pay NIS 4 m. in taxes, based on adjustments to its 1992-1997 assessments.

The agreement signed also determines the manner in which income tax will be paid on the company's activities in Israel in the future.

Globe News Service

## Vatican envoy: Expect 5 million in 2000

The Vatican's outgoing envoy, Archbishop Andreas Montezemilo, said yesterday that Israel and the Roman Catholic Church must prepare for a projected influx of five million Christian pilgrims in the year 2000.

Speaking at a farewell luncheon tendered in his honor by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur, the archbishop also hoped that the two states will soon ratify the pending agreement on the legal status of the Roman Catholic Church here.

Montezemilo came to Israel in 1991, three years before the Holy See formally established diplomatic relations. He then became its first ambassador to Israel.

Jay Bushinsky

## Turkish Deputy Defense Minister visits

Turkey's Deputy Defense Minister Yalcin Burcak arrives in Israel today for a five-day official visit.

Burcak will be the guest of Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran and will meet with top defense officials. He will also tour defense industries, including IAI, where Turkey's fleet of F-4 fighter jets are being upgraded.

Arieh O'Sullivan

## Young Ukrainian wins Rubinstein Competition

Eighteen-year-old Igor Tkhetuev of Ukraine was the winner Wednesday of the Ninth International Arthur Rubinstein Master Piano Competition.

The first prize comprises \$35,000 cash plus a Kawai grand piano and a concert tour in the Far East, as well as one in Germany. Tkhetuev also received the Audience Favorite prize of \$2,500.

Second prize (\$15,000) went to Russian Vitaly Samoshko and third prize (\$10,000) to Korean Jong-Gyung Park. The \$5,000 prize for best Israeli competitor went to Ory Shihor.

Michael Aizenstadt

## Mordechai: Lebanon pullout not conditional on Syrian withdrawal

By DAVID RUDGE  
and news agencies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday that Israel would not condition an IDF withdrawal on a similar Syrian pullout from Lebanon.

Mordechai was speaking in Herzliya hours after IAF warplanes blasted Hizbullah targets north of the security zone yesterday, amid continued fighting in

south Lebanon.

Reports from Lebanon said a Lebanese farmer was killed as a result of IDF shelling, although this was strongly denied by military sources here.

Nevertheless, IDF and South Lebanese Army troops were on full alert in case of any attempt by Hizbullah to retaliate with Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee.

Originally, news agency reports

quoted Lebanese security sources as saying that the farmer, Assad Hattab, from a village in the western Bekaa Valley was killed in the air raid.

The air strike, however, was directed at terrorist targets in the Jabal Shaffi region, nowhere near the site when the farmer was killed.

The IDF Spokesman said the pilots reported accurate hits on the targets and that all the planes

returned safely to their bases.

Afterwards, the reports from Lebanon said the civilian had been killed by IDF shelling. Military sources, however, said no Lebanese civilian had been killed by IDF fire.

The air raid itself followed a number of Hizbullah long-range mortar attacks on South Lebanese Army and IDF positions earlier in the day in the western sector of the security zone. There were no casualties and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

In his speech, Mordechai reiterated that Israel would not insist on signing a peace agreement with Lebanon but would demand security arrangements before pulling out IDF forces.

"We are not speaking about peace with Lebanon. When we discuss peace with the Syrians, then we will discuss peace with Lebanon."

## Mordechai calls on PA to rein in Hamas

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Israeli leaders called yesterday on Palestinian leaders to rein in terror groups and to improve security while bracing for possible attacks by Hamas in revenge for the death of its master bombmaker.

Thousands of police and Israeli soldiers have been deployed in bus stations and shopping malls to deter attacks. Checks at road blocks have been reinforced and Palestinians are being spot checked in the streets.

"We are not hiding our satisfaction that Muhi Sharif has been hit and is no longer a danger and threat to the lives of the citizens of Israel," Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

Mordechai said he spoke with Mahmud Abbas, deputy to Palestinian Authority chairman Yasser Arafat, yesterday and urged him to reduce the antagonism over Sharif's death.

"I asked him to make sure that an atmosphere not be created which will lead to violence. I also updated him that we had nothing to do (with Sharif's death)," Mordechai said. "We have to do everything to make sure hot heads and irresponsible elements do not do needless deeds."

The commander of IDF forces in Judea and Samaria Brig.-Gen. Yitzhak Eitan has instructed Jewish settlers to act with more



Passengers at Jerusalem's central bus station watch a sniffer dog check trash cans for possible explosive charges yesterday. (AP)

caution and tighten their guard on the settlements. Eitan also reportedly conveyed messages to the Palestinian police to rein in demonstrators.

Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz said that "the danger of attacks exists, but I think the Israeli public is aware of what they must do regarding being alert and ready."

"I think this understanding is working its way into the awareness of the Palestinian Authority and all those involved," Mofaz

said.

According to Channel 1, the explosion Sunday in Ramallah was set off by a spark as Sharif prepared a car bomb.

Mordechai said he also spoke to US Ambassador Ned Walker and told him that Israel was not involved.

Margot Dudenkitch adds: Police Insp. Gen. Yehuda Wilk said yesterday that "the police are deployed and alert and will do everything within its power to prevent terrorist attacks."

Wilk called on the public to continue daily routines but to remain alert.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warned the PA yesterday that the peace process would be over if it permitted revenge attacks against Israel.

Kahalani added that by blaming Israel for Sharif's death, the PA is encouraging Hamas to carry out attacks.

"It is paradoxical to be forced into a position of apologizing for the death of a man who murdered

so many innocent people and was responsible for many terrorist attacks," Kahalani said.

"It is ridiculous to be put in this position when the man died preparing a bomb slated to be used in a terrorist attack in Israel."

Possibly in an effort to ease tensions, Kahalani said he met with the head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Apparatus, Hisham Abed Al-Razzak, and discussed the possibility of releasing about 60 Fatah prisoners who "have no blood on their hands."

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## Citing 'insensitive' officials who dealt with claims

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — The British government yesterday apologized to Holocaust victims and their families for the "sometimes insensitive" officials who dealt with claims for assets which had been deposited in Britain before World War II and later confiscated as enemy property.

At the same time, the government announced it is making available an initial sum of £2 million (about \$3 million) that will be available to Nazi victims under a new claims procedure.

If this amount is not all taken up, the remainder will be transferred to an independent body and passed on to victims of Nazi persecution who are still suffering hardship.

To facilitate the process, the government announced it would publish on the Internet a list of about 25,000 names of people for whom records still exist.

The announcement follows a government-instituted investigation into property belonging to residents of Nazi-occupied countries and confiscated under British

wartime legislation.

When war broke out, assets deposited in Britain for safekeeping by citizens of Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary were seized as enemy property.

After the war, the British government applied stringent rules which prevented many from being reimbursed.

The report notes that postwar peace treaties stipulated that the governments of Bulgaria, Hungary and Romania would compensate their nationals for property that had been lost in Britain, but the Communist regimes in those countries did not honor their commitments.

In 1948, the British government made token ex gratia payments totaling some \$2 million to about 1,000 victims of Nazi persecution whose property had been confiscated as a result of the war.

After 1956, the remaining assets were used to by the British government to compensate British cit-

izens who had lost assets in enemy countries as a result of the war.

Presenting the report, which was compiled by historians at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, President of the Board of Trade Margaret Beckett acknowledged that some documents indicated that those officials who dealt with claims "were sometimes insensitive to the plight of Nazi victims."

"The present government deeply regrets this, and I would like to apologize to those individuals and to their relatives and descendants," she said.

"A different attitude would be expected now. The general principle must be that confiscated assets placed in the UK by victims of Nazi persecution should be returned to them by the UK where practicable and where claims can be validated."

Publication of the report was originally thought to have been done when Britain convened the Nazi Gold Conference in early December and the delay caused speculation that the recommendations would not include any provision for further compensation.

Lord Janner, head of the London-based Holocaust Educational Trust, which led the campaign for the British government to convene the Nazi Gold Conference, was pessimistic after meeting a senior government official last week.

"I got the impression that the government is not going to give compensation," he said then. "They are going to say no to those survivors and their heirs."

Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal this week joined the chorus of outrage when he wrote to the *London Times*: "If Britain turns away these claims now, it will give a painful and damaging message to the few remaining survivors in their final years and will give other countries the signal that Britain does not care."

Neville Nagler, chief executive of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the umbrella organization of the Jewish community, said it would be "shameful" if the government refuses compensation to those whose assets were confiscated.

"They and their descendants have waited more than a half-century for justice," he said.

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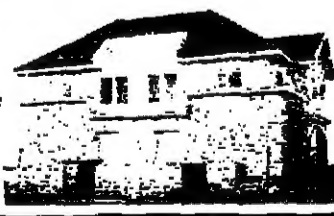
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TRAVEL WITH THE EXPERTS



# Hizbullah rejects Israel's 425 plan, but calls it 'important'

By DAVID RUDGE  
and news agencies

Hizbullah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah yesterday rejected the government's UN resolution 425 initiative, which calls for guaranteeing the security of Israel's northern communities as well as the welfare of South Lebanese Army soldiers and their families following an IDF withdrawal.

Nevertheless, he said it was the most important development in recent years, especially since it was not a proposal by one minister or another, but a cabinet decision. He further maintained that Hizbullah would not oppose the Lebanese Army if it deployed in areas of south Lebanon vacated by the IDF.

"There will be no internal problems in the [security] zone after the

withdrawal, Hizbullah will offer every cooperation with the Lebanese Army and the official security forces to make them preserve the security of that area," he was quoted as saying.

Nasrallah stressed that Hizbullah supports the official government line over a proposed IDF withdrawal.

"The only logical and acceptable solution for the situation in south Lebanon is that Israeli troops withdraw unconditionally," he said.

Asked if Hizbullah would continue its military campaign in the event of an IDF withdrawal, Nasrallah said: "Military struggle is one of the subjects we will not talk about until after the Israelis pull out of our land."

Syria, meanwhile, continued to portray Israel's 425 initiative as a plot to split Lebanon and Syria

and prevent a comprehensive peace in the region.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Farez Bouez described the proposal as a "bluff" aimed at destroying the resolution itself. Bouez, speaking in Rome following an audience with the pope there, made it clear that Lebanon would not hold any negotiations with Israel over security arrangements and said Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu does not really intend to pull the IDF out of south Lebanon.

The Lebanese government officially rejected Israel's proposal yesterday, claiming it contradicted Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional withdrawal.

Lebanese Information Minister Bassem Sabaa said after a cabinet meeting: "The Israeli offer is part of an Israeli diplomatic campaign

that appears to be about a withdrawal from south Lebanon, but its purpose is to continue this occupation and violate the sovereignty of Lebanon and drag it into negotiating security arrangements that are completely rejected by all Lebanese."

"The Lebanese government rejects any attempt to put it in the position of being responsible for the security of Israel," he added.

A commentary broadcast on Lebanon's Orient radio station, owned and run by Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, cautioned listeners to remember that the Israeli cabinet's decision was taken on April 1, intimating it should be treated as a joke.

Jay Bushinsky adds: Despite the negative reactions by Lebanon and Syria, official reactions abroad have been very

positive, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aviv Shir-On said yesterday.

He cited a statement by Italian Foreign Minister Umberto Dini, which termed it "an encouraging decision." Dini's comments, which were relayed to the ministry in Jerusalem, hailed the "openness" demonstrated by Israel, but included a reminder that "we have not yet come to the end of the Lebanon story."

Shir-On's French counterpart said it was a decision "which can advance matters" and a step in the right direction. He said the Australian reaction also was favorable, but was unable to cite the responses of other countries because "it takes the diplomats time to formulate their remarks or for their respective governments to determine their positions."

## Lubrani: Lebanon unofficially welcomes pullout offer

By LIAT COLLINS

Nobody should be surprised that the initial reaction in Syria and Lebanon to Israel's adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 425 was negative, Uri Lubrani, government coordinator of activities in Lebanon, said yesterday.

In answer to a question at a press conference in Jerusalem, Lubrani said, however, that unofficial sources in Lebanon had made it known the Lebanese welcomed the initiative.

He said Hizbullah's reaction, too, was predictable. "What we see with Hizbullah is a lot of concern and a lot of embarrassment in a way: a sense that the implementation of this resolution may cause the removal of their raison d'être. But it is still just the beginning."

He said Israel feels something is moving in this respect. He also noted there is a contradiction between the official Hizbullah stand and the stand Iran thinks it should take. "There is turmoil there which has not been resolved, and we have to have patience and see how it turns out."

Lubrani called the statements by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright "an important development."

"She was very positive about it and welcomed the adoption of this resolution, which gave it a credibility which was necessary to get the whole process off the ground," he said.

Lubrani stressed that this is only the start of a process which could

develop in different ways. "Nothing, unfortunately, is going to happen from today to tomorrow," he said and added that the situation called for "creative diplomacy."

Lubrani said Israel set no time limit for it and had the necessary patience. He said the cabinet's decision made it clear that despite international opinion, Israel is intent on finding a way to leave Lebanon as long as there are arrangements to ensure that terror does not pursue it back across the border and on condition the withdrawal is not unilateral.

Lubrani said the resolution can only be implemented as an entire unit and not by breaking it down and implementing all three components separately.

He stressed that the Lebanese Army has been revitalized as a fighting force, is no longer factionalized and is now capable of assuming responsibility for security.

He said involving an intermediary in negotiating the security arrangements would not work as well as face-to-face negotiations between the two sides.

The resolution also mentions Israel's commitment to ensuring that the residents of south Lebanon are not penalized or harassed after a withdrawal, Lubrani said.

"It would be tantamount to a tragedy if the resolution is not at the end of the road implemented," Lubrani said, adding that its aim is to save lives of both Israelis and Lebanese.

## Darawshe in Jordan: Israel wants to rule Arab world

By STEVE RODAN

MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe told Jordanian audiences in a tour of the Hashemite kingdom this week that most Israelis do not support the peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan and that Israel intends to rule over the Arab world.

In a cable relayed by the Foreign Ministry that monitored his visit, Darawshe was quoted as saying in a speech to University Al Umm outside Amman that the peace treaties with the Arabs are considered by Israel as cease-fire arrangements.

The MK, a leader of the Arab Democratic Party, described the Israeli government as the new colonialist power in the Middle East.

Darawshe, according to the cable obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, also reviewed what he called his successful efforts to convince Arabs not to serve in the IDF. He said several days ago his party adopted a decision against Israeli Arabs participating in the 50th anniversary of the state, which he termed a day of disaster and failure.

The MK, a former Labor Party member, confirmed to the *Post* his remarks, which were also reported in the pro-government Jordanian newspaper *Al Dustour*. "This is nothing new," he said. "I say this in the Knesset all the time."

Darawshe, who during his trip to Jordan also met with senior officials, explained his description of the peace treaties as cease-fires, saying, "I say it's not enough that governments make peace accords. The people must also make peace. As long as this does not happen, then these treaties are temporary cease-fires."

He also confirmed his attempts to stop Beduins in the Negev from entering the IDF. "I oppose Beduins or any Arabs serving in the army," he said. "I am against Arabs in the army as long as it occupies land."

Liav Collins adds: MK Zvi Hendel (National Religious Party) yesterday called on Darawshe to resign from the Knesset. Hendel said there is even room to reconsider the right of Israeli Arabs to vote and be elected.



Mass-mitzva

Some 1,000 immigrant youngsters attend a mass bnei mitzva ceremony yesterday at the Western Wall. The NIS 2 million bar and bat mitzva celebration was funded for the fifth year in a row by Australian gold-mining tycoon and philanthropist Joseph Getnick, an ordained Habad rabbi.

(Flash 90)

## Cook seeks to improve ties with British Jews

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook this week launched a charm offensive aimed at Israel and the British Jewish community following his controversial visit to Israel last month.

During the visit, widely described here as a diplomatic debacle, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu withdrew an invitation to dinner after Cook breached a prior agreement with his Israeli hosts and met a Palestinian official while visiting Har Homa.

His current efforts to restore relations with Israel and the Jewish

community are seen as an attempt to clear some of the wreckage from his visit before British Prime Minister Tony Blair's trip to Israel later this month to mark Israel's 50th anniversary.

Meeting yesterday with a group of Jewish community leaders, who last week postponed a gala dinner at which he was to have been guest of honor, Cook stressed Britain's commitment to Israel and its "balanced approach" to the peace process.

He also agreed on the importance of joint efforts to reinforce the positive relationship between the government and the British

Jewish community.

Cook offered to address the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the community's representative organization, to elaborate his views on Israel and the region.

Board president Eldred Tabachnik, who led the five-person delegation, described the encounter as "most constructive and friendly."

He said that Cook, who visited a Palestinian memorial for the victims of Deir Yassin but declined an invitation to Yad Vashem, assured the Jewish leaders that he would visit the Holocaust memorial on his next trip to Jerusalem.

The previous afternoon, Cook met with Israeli Ambassador Dror Zeigerman. Cook briefed Zeigerman on plans for a British trade week, to be held in Tel Aviv from May 10 to May 14 to mark Israel's jubilee and be described himself as a friend of Israel.

Cook's visit to Israel, which was intended to be dominated by a six-point European Union plan for energizing the peace process, was overshadowed by the Har Homa affair.

Cook's conduct during his visit prompted widespread criticism in the British media, some of which suggested that he lacked the

## Four Mothers seek world support for 425 initiative

By DAVID RUDGE

The Four Mothers movement is launching a campaign aimed at winning international support for the government's initiative to pull the IDF out of south Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Rachel Ben-Dor, the head of the movement, said that at the same time they would keep up pressure on the government to drag Israel out of the "Lebanese quagmire."

She said activists have already been in touch with diplomats and foreign embassies to seek assistance in solving the Lebanon problem.

"Now, following the security cabinet's decision, we will be campaigning even more strongly to get others countries to support the pro-

posal and use their influence to get something moving," said Ben-Dor. "Residents of Lebanon are as fed-up with the fighting as we are here in Israel and I'm sure that given the opportunity they would like to see the matter resolved."

Ben-Dor, a resident of the North,

said they would be concentrating initially on seeking the support of the US, France, and the European Union, as well as the UN.

"We intend to seek a meeting with the UN secretary-general, as well as with ambassadors, and hopefully send delegations abroad,

because without this support and intervention there is a fear that nothing will be achieved," she said.

"Despite our skepticism because of what we have already gone through, I think that the government is genuine in its attempts to

solve the Lebanon problem, because there is a consensus in the country. The question now is how the other sides, Lebanon and especially Syria, will react and whether they will take this opportunity and adopt it, or adhere to their positions."

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**Wednesday, April 8, at 9:00 p.m.**  
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**Women in Green**  
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**Israeli and International Art**  
**Tuesday 14 April at 8 pm**  
**Important Judaica**  
**Wednesday 15 April at 3 pm & 5.30 pm**  
**Ceramics only on view:**  
**Friday 3 April 10am-2pm**  
**Saturday 4 April 12pm-6pm**  
**Art, Judaica and Ceramics on view:**  
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**Wednesday 8 April and Thursday 9 April 12pm-8pm**  
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# Pollard blasts 'bogus' offer

## Orders attorney to stop negotiating with Israel

By BATSHEVA TSUR

Convicted spy Jonathan Pollard said yesterday he has instructed his attorney to cease all negotiations with the Israeli government following what he termed "a bogus offer of official recognition by the government of Israel."

Pollard was offered a formula which would declare that he was conscripted by people acting on behalf of Israel, albeit without the government's official blessing. *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

The formula was proposed to Pollard's Jerusalem lawyer, Larry Dub, by Shimon Stein, legal adviser at the Prime Minister's Office. It had the tacit approval of the defense establishment and Attorney-General Edna Arbel.

But Pollard reacted angrily to the proposal. From his Butler, North Carolina penitentiary he said yesterday: "I did not spend 13 years in prison to endorse a lie. The truth must come out so that I may be freed."

At the time of Pollard's arrest

with his first wife Anne, the government described the affair as "a rogue operation."

But according to Pollard, his operations on behalf of Israel received full government sanction.

"The truth is simple and clear: I was an Israeli agent employed by the Lakam branch of intelligence in an operation that was fully sanctioned by the government of Israel," he said yesterday.

"Anything less than that is a distortion of the truth that is counterproductive to the goal of securing my release."

Pollard has petitioned the High Court of Justice for official state recognition of his role as an agent.

In a hearing last month, the court gave the state 60 days to prove it was doing everything possible to secure his release.

Yesterday, Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, who was the first government minister to visit Pollard and has been vociferous in his support of him, reiterated that Pollard was entitled to full recognition by Israel.

Such recognition would provide him with monthly compensation while he is in prison, cover his lawyers fees and entitle him to medical care from a private physician.

Following Pollard's rejection of the formula proposed by Stein, the government legal adviser is expected to make a more far-reaching offer to Pollard, a source said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh, who is coordinating the team trying to secure Pollard's release, wrote to Pollard yesterday.

In his message he said "we are constantly and diligently investigating every possibility and every avenue which could hasten your release... I assume that you are aware that the prime minister personally coordinates a working group of ministers who act for your release."

Naveh said he personally planned to visit Pollard in the coming weeks.

"I reiterate my greetings for Pessah, which is also the celebration of freedom, and wish that we may soon see you as a free man in Israel," he said.



### Independence stamps

A new series of stamps has been issued to mark the state's 50th anniversary. The official jubilee stamp above shows Shrik, the spunky cartoon character invented for the 10th anniversary by cartoonist Dosh (Kariel Gardosh). Another two-stamp set designed by R. Kantor marks the recruitment of volunteers in the Diaspora, while a third stamp designed by H. Kivkovich recalls the UN partition resolution of November 29, 1947. A souvenir sheet comprising three stamps is based on the theme of the War of Independence. (Text: Judy Siegel)

## Outrage over Eliahu's pardon-for-Amir interview

By NICHAL YUDELMAN

Dalia Rabin-Pelossof, daughter of the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, expressed outrage yesterday at Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu's reported statement that under certain circumstances, Yigal Amir, who murdered Rabin, could be pardoned.

Eliahu, the former Sephardic chief rabbi, was quoted in *Yediot Aharonot* yesterday as saying it is possible to pardon Amir, on condition the president is convinced he has repented and the pardon does not have adverse educational aspects.

The complete interview with Eliahu is to be published today in the *Yediot* Tiksoret weekly papers. Eliahu yesterday denied he supports pardoning Amir or that

he said he does.

Rabin-Pelossof said a pardon for Amir was inconceivable, now or in the future.

"I cannot believe that less than three years after the murder, the issue of a pardon for Amir would be raised. I didn't think it would be talked about in my lifetime, in this country," she said, in an interview on Channel 1's *Erev Hadash*.

Rabin-Pelossof called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Ezer Weizman to come out unequivocally against a pardon. "I call on people to snap out of their indifference, to open their eyes and see the [moral] eclipse taking place before their eyes. There is no place even to mention the word [pardon] in connection with Amir,"

## 'Post' offers free e-mail service

By JUDY SIEGEL

Hundreds of people around the world have already signed up for a free Web-based e-mail account through *The Jerusalem Post*, even though it is being officially launched only today.

The new Jerusalem e-mail service, developed by the CommTouch company in Moshav Ein Vered near Ra'anana, is the first free e-mail service offered by an Israeli company.

Generally, when you sign up with an Internet provider, you get only one e-mail account, with one mailbox, and can't select your own personalized address.

But Web-based e-mail allows subscribers to send and retrieve e-mail by entering the site via any Internet-connected computer any-

where in the world without having to reconfigure your computer.

In addition, Jerusalem e-mail subscribers can separate their e-mail at work from their personal e-mail at home, and if they switch Internet providers, they don't have to inform all their correspondents of a new electronic address.

New subscribers need only click on the appropriate place on *The Jerusalem Post*'s Internet Edition (at <http://www.jpost.co.il> or <http://www.jpost.com>) or go directly into <http://www.jerusalem-mail.com> or <http://www.jpost-mail.com> to register. They will be asked to choose a log-on name and password, and to fill out a short questionnaire.

After this is completed, they may begin using their new e-mail account immediately.

AJC survey:

## Holocaust tops US Jewish identity

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The Holocaust is the overwhelmingly important factor in American Jewish identity and goes a long way in explaining the American obsession with anti-Semitism, according to a recent survey of American Jewish opinion.

"When you are living in a time when Holocaust denial is still in the air and when Holocaust relativism has made major strides, there is something to be said when Jews observe the imperative to remember," said Steven Bayme, director of Jewish communal affairs of the American Jewish Committee.

"Remembrance is a central component of what we are about. The problem is when it is the only component."

Holocaust remembrance was "very important" to 76 percent of American Jews, followed by the celebration of Jewish holidays, Jewish study, synagogue services, and Jewish organizational activity, according to the AJC's "1998 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion." Travel to Israel came in last.

Only 22% said it was a very important factor in their Jewish identity, while 39% said it was not important.

The high ranking of the Holocaust was universal across the American Jewish landscape, with no significant differences in Jewish opinion based on age, education, income or religious observance, according to the survey, which interviewed a representative sample of 1,001 self-identified adult American Jews between February 19 and March 8. The margin of error for the sample is 3 points.

The Holocaust is a poor prism by which to view Jewish history, Bayme said. "The vision of the Holocaust as centerpiece of Jewish identity suggests that our connection with our past is a connection of sadness, that being a Jew is a matter of commemorating terrible events," he said. "This is a very distorted focus on the Jewish historical experience and the meaning of being a Jew."

In what Bayme called "the other shocking statistic," Jews said, by a margin of 57%-38%, that antisemitism was a greater threat than mixed marriage. "That is totally untrue," he said.

Last year, the AJC did not include the Holocaust in its rating of factors in Jewish identity. When Holocaust consciousness is added to the identity mix, "it makes for a revolution in the results," said David Singer, AJC's director of research.

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Wishing You Hag Sameach And A Pleasant Flight!

## Invitation to submit offers for the purchase of a two-story cottage

- Offers are invited for the purchase of a two-story cottage on Rehov Ramat Hagolan, Ramat Eshkol, Jerusalem.
- Bidders are requested to submit bids in writing to the undersigned by April 28, 1998 together with their name, address and ID number. The bid should be quoted in US dollars; the property will be sold in New Israeli Shekels at the representative rate. Bids can be sent by fax or mail.
- The cottage will be sold at is, unencumbered, free of chattels and unoccupied.
- The bidders will be responsible for checking the physical condition, and the legal and planning status of the cottage and the seller will bear no responsibility for them.
- The seller does not undertake to accept the highest or any bid and reserve the right to conduct negotiations with any of the bidders separately or together, or with any other party as he deems fit and at his sole discretion, or he may auction off the property among them.
- The seller will not pay an agent's commission.
- The sale will be subject to the approval of the Jerusalem District Court.
- A visit to the property can be arranged through the undersigned.

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## The Israel National Institute for Health Policy and Health Services Research

### Call for Submission of Research Proposals 1998

Section 52(2) of the National Health Insurance Law (1994) determined that among the functions of the Health Council is to monitor the performance of the law and to carry out research, surveys, and obtain professional opinions through an institute appointed by the Minister.

The Israel National Institute for Health Policy and Health Services Research was designated by the Health Council as the body responsible for the above tasks. Its main aim is to follow up and evaluate the effect of the National Health Insurance Law on the quality, efficiency and cost of health services in Israel.

Three major areas of research on which proposals are requested, have been defined:

1. Organization of health services
2. Health economics
3. Quality of health services

Special attention will be paid this year to research proposals relating to the following topics:

1. Cost-sharing by recipients of health services
2. Medications policy
3. The Israel health system: missing and redundant services
4. The use of data in decision-making in the organization of health services

Researchers whose proposals are approved will be required to present their findings at a suitable forum of the National Institute, in addition to other commitments specified in the contract.

### Submission dates:

- Regular proposals and preliminary proposals for comprehensive studies - 30/6/98.
- Comprehensive studies - 60 days after approval by the Research Committee.

Researcher's guidelines are available from:  
The Israel National Institute for Health Policy and Health Services Research The Gertner Institute Building, Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer 52621,  
Telephone: 03-53635167, Fax: 03-5363250.

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Police chief, ministry official suspended

# Riga synagogue bombed

By Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

A pre-dawn bombing yesterday damaged the only synagogue in the Latvian capital. There were no reports of casualties or claim of responsibility.

The state police chief and an Interior Ministry state secretary have been suspended pending an investigation, Interior Minister Ziedonis Ceveris said.

Latvia's president, prime minister and foreign minister condemned the attack, the second in three years. Parliament's national security committee said it will discuss the incident, the Baltic News Service reported.

Hours after the blast, the synagogue held its regular morning service, after which Rabbi Mordechai Glazman said preparations for Pessah will continue "to show our enemies we are not going to shut down and they are not going to disturb our holidays."

The service attracted more than the usual number of worshippers, and the mood was somber. "The old people, they all were crying," Glazman said. "To say they were upset, that is not the word."

Prime Minister Guntars Krasts visited the synagogue in Riga's Old Town area, and pledged that all damage - notably to stained-glass windows and a wooden door - would be repaired.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center yesterday called upon Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis to outlaw all public meetings and

demonstrations by those who supported Nazi Germany during World War II. In a letter to Ulmanis, Israel director Dr. Efraim Zuroff expressed his suspicion that the bombing was linked to the recent reunion of the Latvian SS legion held in Riga in mid-March.

"We strongly suspect that there is a direct link between those events and this act of violence against the Jewish community. By taking this unequivocal stance on this issue you will not only be honestly confronting the past, but you will be protecting the future of Latvia's democracy and the safety of all its inhabitants," Zuroff said in a statement.

The blast blew out the synagogue's front door and all the windows on its bottom two floors, as well as windows in two apartment buildings across the street, Glazman said.

The synagogue's door and beautiful colored windows were its original ones from 1906, and had weathered the Nazi bombings and occupation.

During the war, all of Riga's synagogues were destroyed except for this one because of its location in the center of the Old Town.

The Old Town buildings were built literally adjacent to each other and destroying the synagogue would have meant destroying the entire block. The Germans used the synagogue instead as a stall for their horses.

There has been wide distrust of top police



Latvia Interior Ministry officials stand near the front door of Riga's synagogue, which was damaged by a bomb blast early yesterday. (AP)

and Interior Ministry officials because a May 1995 bombing of the synagogue was never solved.

There are an estimated 20,000 Jews in Latvia, the largest Jewish community in the Baltics.

## Papon was not 'just another ex-Nazi'

Maurice Papon, the Vichy official convicted in a French court yesterday of complicity in crimes against humanity, was not "just another Nazi war criminal." He was not John Demjanjuk, who after helping kill Jews in the Sobibor death camp, lived a life of anonymity as an auto worker in Ohio.

Papon, a functionary in the French Republic before Vichy, carried out his duties efficiently with the collaborationist regime, and then enjoyed a spectacular rise in the civil service afterward. Charles de Gaulle named him National Police chief during the Algerian War, and former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing gave him the prestigious Budget Ministry portfolio.

Lucien Lazare, a French-born historian and former resistance fighter now living in Jerusalem, said that there is something about the trajectory of Papon's career - both before, during, and after Vichy - which indicates that "if the right-wing extremists get into the French government in France, something that is possible, they will not have to look for bureaucrats to carry out their orders, but the existing bureau-

cracy would fulfill its obligations under any government."

That is the reason, Lazare said, why Papon's conviction is so important - even more important than the length of Papon's sentence, which Lazare termed "secondary."

"Had the Papon trial not taken place, or had Papon not been convicted of crimes against humanity, it would be conceivable that if an extreme government gains control in France again, things will progress as they did under Vichy, with the bureaucrats and civil servants following orders."

Papon's trial, Lazare said, has made it clear that the civil servants have responsibility and accountability. Its message to the French civil service and public is that the dutiful obeying of even the most evil directives is possible unless there are mechanisms in place to check it, both in public opinion and among the parties.

The Papon trial represented one of those checks. Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Israel, said

it is people like Papon who ensured that the Nazis' plan to wipe out Jews would be carried out effectively and efficiently.

"Papon was an administrator, not a military man," Zuroff said. "He was a guy from the bureaucracy who went and carried out all the anti-Jewish regulations, rounded the Jews up, and sent them to the East. Papon was a highly significant prosecution, because it shows there is no statute of limitations for crimes against humanity, that there is no forgetting these crimes."

"People like Papon made the Holocaust possible - you needed a Hitler and a Himmler and a Nazi leadership, but without the active, willing, and zealous collaboration of hundreds of thousands of collaborators, the scope of the Holocaust would have been greatly reduced."

Zuroff said that what is interesting in this trial was Papon's "arrogance and obstinate refusal to acknowledge his own complicity. In that respect I am disappointed he got 10 years, because given his arrogance and

obstinacy - it would have been a much better thing had he been given life imprisonment, although 10 years might be life in his case. But, because of the appeals, we are fearful he might not sit a single day."

Trials of elderly Nazi war criminals inevitably raise the question of what good comes out of sending someone in his eighties or nineties to prison - Papon is 87.

"This," said Zuroff, "is a case of misplaced sympathy. I say, take a look at the man, and know he had no compunctions about having grandparents and children murdered. These trials send a message to the potential killers of tomorrow: You may not be caught immediately, it may take 10, 20, or 30 years, but ultimately you could pay for your crimes. So if you do not refrain from crimes for moral reasons, refrain from the crimes because you might pay for them."

If every person who was responsible for killing Jews in the Holocaust had paid for it, Zuroff said, "what happened in Rwanda and Bosnia would not have taken place. But that is not what happened. We have had too little justice."

### IN CONTEXT

By Efraim Zuroff

## Kosher for Pessah coffee - from Jordan

By HAIM SHAPIRO

This Pessah consumers can enjoy mushrooms from China, fish from Tanzania and Kenya, olive oil from Spain, fruit salad from Thailand, and even instant coffee produced in Jordan.

The products are among the 165 listed in a special booklet of kosher for Pessah products approved by the Chief Rabbinate, which is responsible for granting kashrut certificates on imported food, according to Rabbi Haim Silber, head of the kashrut division.

The coffee was approved as kosher for Pessah by department's adjudicator, Rabbi Dov Landau.

The coffee, called "Coffee Break," is produced by the United Coffee Company in Amman.

Silber noted that before the rabbinat would grant its approval, it

sent a kashrut supervisor to Amman to inspect the production line.

The supervisor, Michael Hoffman said that the Jordanians were more understanding about kashrut requirements than food manufacturers in many other parts of the world.

"They are Christians and Moslems and they are educated people. Their religion is closer to ours than many others in the Far East, for example," Hoffman said.

He said that he and his assistant remained in Amman for four days while the entire Pessah production took place.

"Basically it is a kosher plant for all year, but for Pessah there has to be constant supervision," he said.

The booklet, which is to be available at local rabbinat offices, includes both regular

kosher for Pessah items and those which are *mechadrim*, for those with especially stringent observance requirements. It also includes non-food items, such as toothpaste from Poland, cosmetics from England and cleaning materials from Italy, Germany and Spain.

At the same time, consumers will also be able to enjoy different types of matza.

Matzot Rishon, one of the country's largest producers, says that this year it is introducing honey matza, rye matza and egg matza made with pure grape juice.

According to the producers, there is an annual drop of three to

four percent in the consumption of regular matza, while the demand for special matza, both the special flavors and the *shmurra* matza that haredim demand, goes up by about 10 percent a year.

The company ran a special public relations campaign this year in the Russian-language media to encourage immigrants from the former Soviet Union to buy matza.

In other Pessah news, the chief rabbis are due next week to sell all of the government's *hametz* to Hussein Ismail Jabber of Abu Ghosh. Jabber is the acting special events manager of the Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel.

## Swiss bank uncovers 8 Holocaust-era dormant accounts

By MARILYN HENRY and news agencies

NEW YORK - The Swiss National Bank discovered eight dormant Holocaust-era accounts during last year's search for assets unclaimed since 1945, according to the bank's annual report, which was released yesterday.

In the last two years, the central bank, which has limited dealings with individuals, has tried to maintain its distance from much of the international tempest over dormant accounts.

The SNB accounts, reportedly worth SFr 15,000, include those opened by foreigners.

The Swiss commercial banks, undergoing a forensic audit, are the defendants in three class-action lawsuits in federal court in the US. Swiss radio reported this week that a lawsuit against the SNB also was expected.

The Swiss this week ruled out participating in negotiations with Nazi victims on a global resolution of claims against the country's banks.

Claimants have tried to compel the government to reach some kind of settlement, because the national bank - acting as the government's agent - received, converted into usable currency and profited from transactions involving more than \$380m. in gold that had been looted by the Nazis.

The central bank last year contributed SFr 100 million to the Swiss "humanitarian fund" for needy Nazi victims, which was established early last year by the commercial banks.

## NEWS

in brief

### Wife-killer undergoes further tests

Hanoch Hofman, charged with murdering his former wife by beating her on the head with a hammer, will undergo psychiatric observation for another 10 days while remaining in custody, Tel Aviv District Court Judge Avraham Beizer ruled yesterday.

The 46-year-old Holon man, has already spent 10 days under observation. The prosecution asked for further evaluations to determine whether he can be tried.

According to the indictment, Hofman beat his former wife on the head seven times while she was sleeping in their children's room last month.

The couple divorced several years ago, but continued to live together with their three children. Galit Lipkis Beck

### Tree-burning suspect's remand reduced

The remand of Uri Yerimi, 20, suspected of setting fire to palm trees in the Dan region, was reduced by four days by Tel Aviv District Court yesterday. He is thus likely to be released today. Yerimi denies the allegations.

His lawyer, Haim Misgav said Yerimi does not have a criminal record and police found nothing when they searched his home. He asked the court to reject the police's request to extend Yerimi's remand until the end of court proceedings, explaining that his client has health problems.

Police have arrested two other suspects, aged 18 and 20, who have confessed to the tree burnings. Galit Lipkis Beck

### Ministry orders illegal foreign worker roundup

The Labor Ministry announced that illegal foreign workers in Eilat were being rounded up by police and deported in order to "clean the city" before Pessah. The ministry issued a statement saying 97 deportation orders had been issued in a roundup of workers from Thailand, Turkey, India and the Balkan states. AP

### 'Ha'aretz' files libel suit against 'Ma'ariv'

'Ha'aretz' and its editor filed an NIS 5 million libel suit against 'Ma'ariv', its editor Ya'acov Erez and reporter Ofir Hachem yesterday in Tel Aviv District Court.

'Ha'aretz' contends 'Ma'ariv' libeled it on March 20, when it printed an article with a sub-heading that claimed 'Ha'aretz', at the instruction of its editor, published the names of soldiers killed in battle before their families were informed.

The main headline said Eitan Rabin, 'Ha'aretz's' former military reporter, had filed a compensation claim against 'Ha'aretz'.

'Ha'aretz' contends the article is unfounded and misleading. The paper claims Rabin's suit does not say anything about the premature publication of fallen soldiers' names.

'Ha'aretz' claims the article harmed the paper's reputation and has turned it into a "target of hatred, scorn and mockery."

'Ma'ariv', who recently hired Rabin, has not yet filed a statement of defense. Galit Lipkis Beck

### Drummer seeks to hide swastika tattoo from jury

Tommy Lee doesn't want jurors to know about his swastika tattoo when he goes on trial for allegedly roughing up a Jewish paparazzi cameraman, according to court documents obtained Wednesday. "The evidence has no bearing upon the disputed issues in this case," the rocker's attorney, E. Todd Trumper, wrote in a motion to exclude the tattoo evidence. AP

## Woman asks court to let her die

By GALIT LIPKIS BECK

The Tel Aviv District Court will decide on a 75-year-old terminally ill woman's request not to prolong her life by artificial means only after receiving a gerontologist's opinion, court Deputy President Moshe Telgam ruled yesterday.

The women's lawyer, Yitzhak Hoshen, said he would submit a gerontologist's opinion within the next few days. District attorney's office representative Irit Kelman objected to the woman's request, arguing that in this case there is no need for court intervention.

The woman, who has been suffering from the incurable disease ALS for nearly two years, asked the court not to permit her life to be extended by artificial means

after she is unable to communicate with others. The woman, from Savion, is married with two children.

In the request Hoshen notes that the illness affects the patient's speech and breathing ability. The woman, who can no longer speak, communicates via a computer. She was not present at the hearing.

According to Hoshen, the woman is no longer independent, even though she is still living at home. He said the application is intended as a future request, when her condition deteriorates and she will have to be hospitalized.

Hoshen said it is important to receive the court's approval as soon as possible, before the woman is no longer sufficiently "clear-minded to give instructions."

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# Clinton, the political Houdini, survives another storm

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - He sauntered into Washington as the "Comeback Kid" and by the time Bill Clinton ambles out of town he may well be the ultimate political escape artist.

Ronald Reagan frustrated his critics as the "Teflon president" because no attacks seemed to stick. But Clinton may have elevated escape from political disaster to an art form.

Even Clinton himself thought the announcement from Little Rock, Arkansas on Wednesday that Judge Susan Webber Wright had thrown out the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit against him might be a cruel April Fool's joke.

"The president was pleased," White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry said in an understated response given in Senegal, where Clinton was wrapping up a 12-day trip to Africa.

The lawsuit has been at the heart of Clinton's legal woes.

The maneuvers over Jones's allegations eventually dragged the names of other women into the spotlight, including ex-intern Monica Lewinsky and former White House volunteer Kathleen Willey. Prosecutor Kenneth Starr

expanded his investigation of Clinton to include all manner of allegations.

On January 21, when Lewinsky's name rocketed into notoriety, some pundits rushed to judgment. Clinton was in dire straits.

His future was bleak. Terms were being tossed around like "resignation," "impeachment" and even "President Gore" - a reference to his loyal Vice President Al Gore.

As has happened seemingly countless times in his political career, Clinton was down - but not out. Public opinion polls showed the American people thought he was doing a good job despite the messy allegations about his personal life.

Many of the White House officials who were shaken by the allegations of January found themselves fighting to suppress their glee over the court decision.

"There is a political reward for policy achievement," said a senior White House official, trying to downplay the notion that Clinton had scored yet another political

comeback.

"It's policy that makes a difference in people's lives and the people sided with Bill Clinton some time ago," said the official.

The latest sex allegations have been only the latest accusations dogging Clinton. Starr has spent more than \$30 million probing his Whitewater land deals, allegations of a misuse of FBI files and even the suicide of Vince Foster, a close Clinton ally.

Clinton has made a career out of proving wrong those who wanted to write his political obituary.

In 1992, Clinton's bid for the presidency was nearly ruined by allegations of a long affair with nightclub singer Gennifer Flowers. But Clinton and his wife Hillary appeared on a top-rated national television show just after the Super Bowl to deflect the charges and survive to defeat George Bush.

Two years later, Republicans captured control of both houses of Congress and Democrat Clinton was forced to defend why his presidency was relevant.

He managed to turn political

weakness into his strength. The man who was isolated by his Republican rivals, used that reality to block some of their more controversial proposals - casting himself as a defender of the people.

The comeback was complete in November, 1996 when he managed to win a reelection that had seemed all but impossible 24 months before.

The problems soon followed, however, with Congress and the Justice Department looking into whether he and Gore violated federal election laws on campaign fund-raising.

Attorney-General Janet Reno ruled there wasn't sufficient evidence to create a special prosecutor to look into the affair.

Congressional Republicans pressed their probe, but never nailed down enough evidence to confirm their suspicions.

Clinton's approach to dealing with his White House problems follows the same approach that got him there. He combines steady reserve and remarkable grace under extreme pressure - while avoiding full candor.

During his first bid for the White House, Clinton dodged questions



US President Bill Clinton talks to reporters on the dismissal of the Paula Jones law suit outside his hotel in Dakar yesterday.

about the Vietnam draft and whether he smoked marijuana, as well as his reputation as a woman-

izer. Asked to explain Clinton's Houdini-like ability to escape from

problems, one White House official said: "I don't know, but I never look back."

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## Death of a terrorist

Muhi Sharif had no shortage of enemies. The Hamas terrorist had topped Israel's most-wanted list since the death of Yihya "The Engineer" Ayyash, whom he succeeded, as Hamas's top bombmaker. The Palestinian Authority also did not want one of Sharif's bombs to go off now in Israel, because that would have shifted the center of diplomatic pressure off Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and onto Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. Some Israeli security sources say they believe rivals within Hamas may have killed him. The salient point for the future is not whether Sharif was killed, or died in a much-deserved accident, but whether the Palestinian Authority will do its utmost to prevent the "retaliation" that Hamas promises.

Unlike when Ayyash was killed by a booby-trapped cellular phone, Israel is categorically denying responsibility for Sharif's timely death. This time, security sources inside and outside the government say the official denials are believable, and that Israel probably did not even know of the existence of the Ramallah bomb factory that was destroyed by the blast.

The PA has followed the chain of information revealed by the blast and reportedly made about 20 arrests. Yet there is no indication the PA is engaged in any systematic crackdown against Hamas. Such a crackdown seems unlikely when, far from condemning Sharif's bloody record, Palestinian officials attended his funeral yesterday, and the Voice of Palestine is calling him a "martyr." There is no excuse for this at best ambivalent official Palestinian approach to the war on terrorism.

The PA tries to make Israel and the US understand that it cannot afford to take on Hamas frontally, and that it will not engage in a "civil war." In fact, Hamas and the PA seem to have a live and let live arrangement between themselves. Hamas does not attack the PA militarily; like the fundamentalist opposition in Egypt, for example, attacks the Egyptian government. In return, the PA does not engage in all-out war against Hamas's terrorist infrastructure, let alone its civic activities. It is this gentlemanly arrangement that Israel is

right to demand must not continue. Just as the Egyptian government does not regard its fight against terrorism to be a "civil war," so too the Palestinians must establish the legitimacy of their fight against terrorism.

So far, the worst thing that Arafat can say about terrorism is that it is against Palestinian interests. This is obviously progress from the time when he would not even condemn terrorism, but today it is not enough. Arafat obviously is not serious about combating terrorism if he, on the one hand, condemns terrorist acts when they occur, but on the other sends the signal that the PA regards the terrorists themselves as martyrs. Any serious fight against terrorism must be predicated on the idea that it is wrong, not just today or this week, but because the Palestinians have taken a fundamental decision to reject terror.

Even before the handshake on the White House lawn, terrorism was wrong, even if the Palestinians called it "armed struggle." But starting from that tentative handshake between Yitzhak Rabin and Arafat in September 1993, the Palestinians ostensibly were committed — as Arafat wrote in his letter to Rabin days before — to "a peaceful resolution of the conflict." Arafat made this commitment, not just as leader of the PLO, but in return for Israel's recognition as "the representative of the Palestinian people." Arafat cannot represent the Palestinians when it comes to negotiations, and not represent them when it comes to terror. If terrorism, post-Oslo, is wrong not just in Israeli and international terms, but in Palestinian terms, then Sharif is not a martyr.

Fighting terrorism is not just a matter of security cooperation and what goes on in the field, though there is much the PA must do on this front as well. Terrorism is a political act, and so the fight against it has a political component as well. The sending of PA officials to Sharif's funeral and the characterization of Sharif as a martyr by Palestinian radio means the political fight against terrorism has not yet begun. Blowing up innocent men, women, and children sitting at a cafe or on a bus is not a heroic or noble act, and it should not be too much to expect from our partner in the peace process to say so.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### MIXED MINDS

Sir, — Yosef Goell in his op-ed "Catastrophe" (March 30) assumes that the War of Independence was a catastrophe for the Arabs who remained in Israel and became Israeli citizens, although he points out that as a result they and their children live longer, are better educated, and have more personal freedom.

Arabs living in Haifa or Tiberias in 1948 did not think of themselves as citizens of an Arab Palestinian state: they were voluntarily citizens of a Palestine established by the League of Nations as homeland for the Jewish people, and they could have chosen to live instead in nearby Arab lands ruled by Moslems or Arab lands ruled by Christians. They had no choice about which government ruled the land they lived in after the British left. Obviously most of them would have preferred an Arab government (some Christian, some Moslem) that would have governed as well as Israel did, an alternative that did not exist.

But in life one can only choose among packages, and each package has good and bad in it. It is a very politicized or racist view to

assume that they all would have preferred some other government than the one that brought them longer life, education, and personal freedom.

Of course Israeli Arabs do not have as much freedom as Israeli Jews, or as much as they should have. The fact that they have more freedom than other Arabs does not justify their mistreatment by Israel, but neither is it irrelevant to an evaluation of their lot in life.

Presumably most of the Israeli Arabs are of mixed minds about whether they would prefer that their homes are within the borders of Israel or, say, Southern Syria — probably the most likely result if it were not for the "catastrophe" of Israeli victory in the War of Independence. They now seem to have the luxury of being able to both enjoy the fruits of Israeli rule and to tell each other that they really would rather be in an Arab state.

But even in their minds they will pay a price if they do not choose which they really prefer. To have integrity they must ask themselves whether they prefer to live under Netanyahu or under Arafat — not some non-existent ideal combination

— and then act and feel consistently with that decision. If they prefer the benefits of Israel then they owe themselves the obligation of supporting Israel. And we owe them the recognition that support for Israel can be an honest, idealistic choice for Israel's Arab citizens. Arab citizens who make that choice should not be scorned by Israelis or coerced by Arabs who make a different choice or pretend to.

I believe that the Arab citizens who choose to be loyal to Israel are more legitimate than those who stay and give their loyalty to others while keeping the benefits of living in Israel, a Jewish state committed to justice for its citizens of all races and religions. Although it is hard for them to believe in us when we do believe in ourselves, God willing peace will come and they can have mixed loyalties and integrity.

MAX SINGER

Washington.

### INSIGHTFUL COLUMNS

Sir, — B. Edelstein, in his letter "Cunning sabre" (March 26) attacks, in a most sarcastic tone, the weekly columns written by Jonathan Rosenblum. This letter, like the vast majority of letters stating a negative view of Rosenblum's columns addresses no specific point nor tries to refute anything written by Rosenblum. If Edelstein or any of your other readers has a bone to pick with any specific idea mentioned in this or any other Friday column, they should address these issues.

Edelstein may want to compare Jonathan Rosenblum's writings to the Sunday comics. Some of us don't find the issue of Who is a Jew, the spiritual disintegration of the Jewish people, and the rapid assimilation and elimination of the American Jewish population as subjects similar to the Sunday funnies.

My wife and I eagerly await and appreciate the Friday *Jerusalem Post* because we appreciate the clear, concise, factual and insightful columns written by Jonathan Rosenblum.

ALAN FREISHTAT

Jerusalem.

PIERA EDELMAN

Mitzpe Netofa, Lower Galilee.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

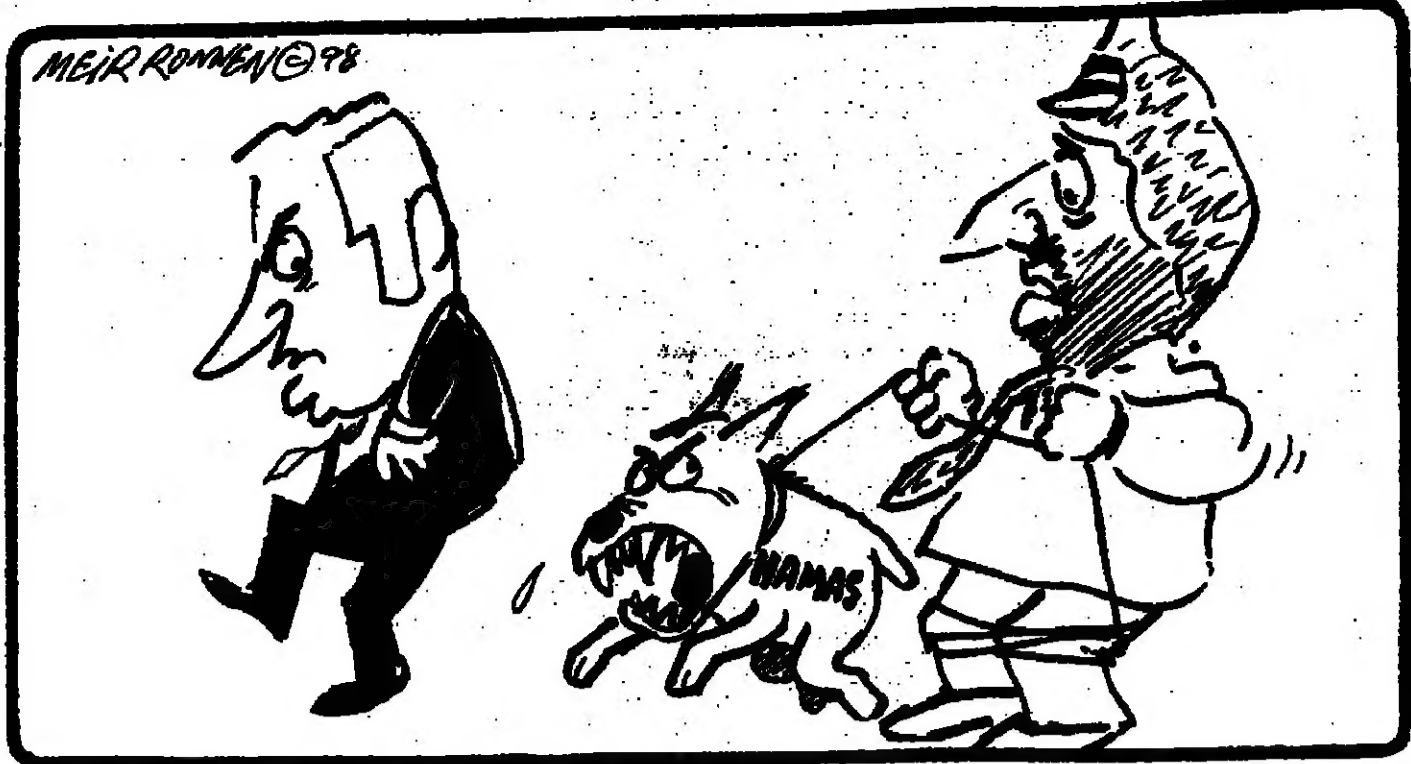
65 years ago: On April 3, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that according to an official announcement Jerusalem was already in the grip of a severe water famine — the reserve of water in Solomon's Pools was something like 14 per cent of

what it was at the same date a year before. The *Post's* leading article commented that it was high time to plan and to do something about it.

25 years ago: On April 3, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that

Defense Minister Moshe Dayan told a meeting of Labor Party leaders that it was unacceptable that an Israeli government should limit Jewish land purchases in Judea and Samaria.

Alexander Zivelli



## The forgotten UN resolution

MOSHE ZAK

It's hard to understand why the security cabinet failed to mention Resolution 520, unanimously passed on September 17, 1982, which calls for the evacuation of all non-Lebanese forces from Lebanese territory. The cabinet confined its endorsement to Resolution 425, adopted earlier on March 17, 1978.

The omission is not trivial. It has broad significance. It represents acceptance of the rule of the Syrian army in Lebanon. Through this military presence, Syrian President Hafez Assad can compel Lebanon to not negotiate with Israel, even to not discuss essential border security arrangements after an IDF withdrawal.

The cabinet's omission was interpreted by Damascus as signifying that Israel is not only acquiescing de facto to Syria's rule in Lebanon, but also extending its de jure recognition.

On this basis, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan can claim that without discussions between Israel and Syria, there is no chance of establishing security arrangements as a substitute for the security zone.

Forgetting Resolution 520 — which calls for "strict respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity, and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the government of Lebanon" — allows the US to claim that unless Israel relinquishes the Golan Heights, Damascus won't allow Beirut to reach an agreement with it.

But there is no need to stick to these assessments of the Syrian obstacles preventing Lebanon from regaining part of its territory. Under certain circumstances, the Syrians' opening position is likely

to change. The same thing happened before the signing of the peace treaty with Jordan. The Americans claimed, on the basis of Syria's statements, that without Assad, King Hussein wouldn't dare to sign. Assad didn't want to be isolated and the last to sign an agreement with Israel.

So the Americans pressed Israel to reopen negotiations with Syria. But Jordan knew how to maneuver Syria and achieved peace, with all its diplomatic and economic benefits. Jordan's dependence on Damascus was incomparably smaller than Lebanon's.

they will break down as soon as the question of Jerusalem comes up. However it is likely that toward May 1999, just before the agreement on the permanent status, Assad will be looking for a way to link withdrawal from the Golan to any Israeli-Palestinian settlement, using the technique he polished in Lebanon.

ASSAD assumes that as long as there are no settlements with Lebanon and the Palestinians, his bargaining position will get stronger. But he doesn't want a total breakdown of the diplomatic

soon present an ultimatum to Israel by exerting pressure to accept an imposed solution. The telephone conference between Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and US Jewish leaders exploded this threat. She said in so many words that the US will not pressure Israel or present it with an ultimatum.

This disappointed the Arabs, who have been dragging their feet in the negotiations because of a mistaken belief that American pressure would bring them better results than direct negotiations.

Meanwhile, Palestinian leaders warned the US and Israel of a breakdown of the diplomatic process if Israel does not accept its conditions, and even added that the end of the process would lead to an explosion of violence.

Until Ross left, Arab leaders were prophesying in this vein. But only after Albright announced that if there were no breakthrough in the negotiations, the US was liable to end its mediation, their tone changed: The Syrians, followed by the Palestinians, quickly promised that the process would continue, and even criticized those who interpreted the current stalemate as the end of the negotiations.

Moral: In the complex and convoluted negotiations that we are conducting with our neighbors, we shouldn't be alarmed at any statement which is an integral part of the open psychological warfare that accompanies all secret negotiations. A snapshot of any one moment in the continuous stream of discussions cannot accurately reflect the state of the negotiations. A settlement can never be reached without passing through severe crises along the way.

### By not referring to Resolution 520, Israel indicated its acceptance of the Syrian army rule of Lebanon

Even so, as the dispute over withdrawal heats up, more and more Lebanese will be pushing for some kind of agreement with Israel to bring this withdrawal nearer.

A sign indicating such a development was demonstrated by the gap between the statements of Lebanese leaders. While Foreign Minister Fawaz Bouze left the door open to talks with Israel on security arrangements, President Elias Hrawi totally rejected the idea.

So far Assad has not interfered with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's negotiations with Israel on the partial IDF withdrawals from Judea and Samaria. It doesn't bother him that the two sides are struggling through long, drawn-out negotiations, since he is confident that

process. On the contrary: Assad doesn't want to define the present crisis between Israel and the PA as the end of the negotiations.

Unlike certain Israelis and Americans, who prophesied that at the end of Dennis Ross's visit the political process would be publicly buried, Syria is unwilling to see the current crisis as the end of the process. This is its way of maintaining links with the US, and even trying to ensure that the US won't give up its handling of the Arab-Israeli conflict. For the time being, Damascus has profited from the fact that Israel and the US have agreed to the presence of the Syrian army in Lebanon, and even officially recognized Lebanon's dependence on Syria.

Over the last few weeks, some people forecast that the US will

## A game of three-card monte

MARK A. HELLER

There are still a few people left in Israel who don't buy lottery tickets because the chances of guessing right are too low to justify the investment. Even street hustlers and carnival card artists seem to give their victims better odds, because there are usually only three possible outcomes.

In the shell game, for example, the point is to guess which of three shells is hiding the little pea. And in three-card monte, the aim is to guess where the queen is hiding. But when you add in the dealer's sleight of hand, the chances of winning are not that much better.

The Israeli-Palestinian "peace process" is little like these scams. For the past year, the government has carried out a "debate" on Israel's needs in a permanent-status agreement, and there seem to be three possible outcomes on the table — Binyamin Netanyahu's "Allon" Plan, Yitzhak Mordechai's "national security interests," and Ariel Sharon's "Sharon Plan IV." But it is almost impossible to guess the right answer, because the government as a whole is itself unable or unwilling to make a decision, and if it ever gets pushed too close to deciding, someone will reshuffle the deck.

The situation in Lebanon is different. Here, the government really does want to get out. But the deck is controlled by someone else, and there are only two possible outcomes: negotiate an agreement or withdraw unilaterally. Neither is a good choice.

The first may not be available at all, and if it is, the price — a deal with Syria — is too steep. The second involves risks that appear to be unacceptably high. So rather than choose between two unappealing alternatives, the government has tried to invent a third one.

This seems to be the meaning of this week's decision by the security cabinet to accept UN Security Council Resolution 425 and to negotiate with the Lebanese government so that the IDF can leave Lebanon "with appropriate security arrangements." The cabinet's announcement looks like a third shell, but underneath, there is no little pea.

That hasn't stopped a lot of people from picking it up to look. The media are full of speculation and commentary, and the anxiety level

when they complain that all these Israeli declarations are meant to undermine the unity of purpose between Lebanon and Syria. After all, these two countries do have different underlying agendas: The former has a real interest in facilitating Israeli withdrawal and reestablishing national authority up to its southern border; the latter can use Israel's presence in Lebanon as an excuse for its own, and as possible leverage to produce Israeli concessions on the Golan Heights — which is precisely why The Third Way, and perhaps Sharon, favor unilateral withdrawal.

The problem, of course, is that those in Beirut who favor Israeli withdrawal have no power to negotiate security arrangements, and those in Damascus who have the power to authorize negotiations do not favor Israeli withdrawal. In this respect, the decision to accept Resolution 425 may have some noteworthy symbolic value, and it changes nothing of substance.

### The decision to accept Resolution 425 may have some noteworthy symbolic value, but it changes nothing of substance

in the South Lebanese Army and among other south Lebanese identified with Israel has gone up another notch. Most significantly, Hizbullah and the Lebanese, Syrian, and Iranian governments are engaged in another round of the furious head-scratching that started when Mordechai first floated this interpretation of 425 at the end of 1997.

IN principle, it may be a good thing to confuse the enemy (even at the price of confusing yourself), and the Syrians are probably right

that's assault, Savanna's mother, Rita, said. Comstock said she felt the nails were a distraction in class. Education groups said they knew of no other case in which a teacher faced a criminal charge for cutting a student's fingernails.

The most puzzling thing about

this quest for negotiated arrangements is what is universally assumed but never really explained — that the marginal added-value of agreements or understandings is great enough to justify postponing the withdrawal that will eventually come. The Lebanese government's basic interest in taking control of the south and ensuring security up to the border does not depend on negotiated arrangements or understandings with Israel. Not does its capacity to do so. Nor will its decision to do so.

After all, Israel already has negotiated understandings and even signed agreements on security arrangements with the Palestinians, and yet Netanyahu is constantly complaining that the Palestinian counter-terrorism effort is altogether unsatisfactory.

In the end, Lebanese behavior will depend, not on understandings and agreements, but on a wide range of countervailing considerations, including domestic politics and pressure and/or support from outside parties. Many of these will push the Lebanese government to avoid a confrontation with Hizbullah, or Palestinian rejectionists, or Syria.

But in terms of what happens in southern Lebanon, Israel will remain the major outside party, and the most critical consideration there will therefore be the fear of Israeli reaction if Lebanon fails to do on the ground what it cannot promise to do on paper. If Israel can enforce its requirements in Lebanon from across the border, then security arrangements are unnecessary; if it cannot, they are useless.

## POSTSCRIPT

FOURTH-GRADE teacher Carol Comstock thought Savanna Merrill's pink-polished fingernails were too long, so she used clippers to give the 9-year-old a manicure. But because she didn't get permission from Savanna's parents, they're charging her with

assault. Comstock, of Yorktown, Virginia, faces a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail and a \$2,500 fine on the misdemeanor charge if convicted. "She took my little girl's hands in her own and cut her. To me,

that's assault, Savanna's mother, Rita, said.

Comstock said she felt the nails were a distraction in class.

Education groups said they knew of no other case in which a teacher faced a criminal charge for cutting a student's fingernails.

Last year, a teacher in Mercer County, Pa., was fired after cutting off four inches of a sixth-grade girl's hair as punishment. Earlier, a kindergarten teacher in South Carolina was suspended after writing "Where are my glasses?" on the face of a 5-year-old.

האזנה מאלו



# A challenge to Israeli Arabs

For 50 years, Israel's Arab citizens have been attempting the political equivalent of squaring the circle. On the one hand, they have demanded and increasingly enjoyed the full rights and privileges of equality and citizenship. On the other, their leaders have joined efforts to undermine Israel's legitimacy and resiliency.

While the rest of the Israeli population is marking 50 years of independence and success, Israeli Arabs are pointedly joining in the commemoration of what Palestinians and much of the Arab world refer to as *al-Nakba* - the catastrophe. Like their Jewish counterparts (but probably with less political infighting and waste of funds), the Arab citizens of Israel created official committees to sponsor symposia, art exhibitions, and commemorative books. The theme is the same in each case - the Arabs and Palestinians are portrayed as the victims, while the Jews and Israel are the aggressors and "colonialists."

Instead of promoting peace and understanding, these myths maintain the ideological foundations on which terrorism and violence thrive.

Now, as in 1948, the events are

seen as an exclusively Arab disaster. There is no sense of shared suffering in a brutal war that killed thousands of Jews and Arabs, and that could have - and should have - been avoided by the acceptance of partition. Rather, 50 years after these events, Israeli Arabs have joined with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in continuing to

GERALD M. STEINBERG

are also unwilling to acknowledge that the "catastrophe" resulted from Arab rejection of the UN partition plan. In other words, they are demonstrating that they do not, to this day, accept the legitimacy of the state in which they claim equal rights.

**It may be too much to ask that Israeli Arabs celebrate our 50th anniversary with enthusiasm, but they should be able to acknowledge the degree of equality and independence that they enjoy**

mourn the creation of a Jewish state in what many still regard as "Arab land." The annual commemoration of Land Day is designed to maintain this spirit of confrontation and perpetuate the myth of victimization.

The Israeli Arab leaders, both political and intellectual, have yet to accept the fundamental principles of partition and compromise based on the historic rights and claims of both peoples to this ancient land. In their rhetoric and literature, Jews are still portrayed as occupiers and colonialists, and the roots of Zionism continue to be ignored.

As a result, Israeli Arab leaders

NEVERTHELESS, Israel has come a long way towards providing equality for its Arab citizens. Indeed, in this respect, the Israeli Arabs can also celebrate 50 years of achievement. They share in Israeli economic successes, with the highest standard of living in the region, excluding Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the Gulf states.

The Arabs of Galilee, Haifa, or Jaffa may not enjoy the level of affluence found in north Tel Aviv or Kfar Shmaryahu, but most are certainly better off than the Jewish inhabitants of Dimona or Yehud. The level of education is also the best in the Arab world,

and many of the most vocal critics of Israeli "discrimination" have advanced degrees from our state-supported universities.

Israeli Arabs also enjoy a high level of independence and pluralism, as can be seen by the strength of the Islamic movement (not necessarily to the liking of the Jews). Although they live in Israel and are citizens of this

country, they enjoy the freedom to perpetuate the myths and propaganda that would not be tolerated in any other country, and certainly not in Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. Yet somehow, this irony has been lost on poets and MKs.

It may be too much to ask that the Israeli Arabs celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Jewish state with enthusiasm, but they should at least be able to acknowledge the degree of equality and independence that they enjoy, despite the obstacles. In the past few years, would-be peacemakers have argued that to overcome the differences and

conflicts, both Jews and Arabs must agree to leave the past behind. To make progress, neither side can blame the other for violence and suffering, and neither can seek propaganda advantages at the expense of the other. The peace process faces enough obstacles without the campaign to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the "catastrophe."

Indeed, many Arab Israelis have been outspoken in asking Jewish Israelis to forget the acts of terrorism and murder committed by Arafat and other prominent Palestinians. However, they continue to press Israel to "accept responsibility for the crimes of 1948." Instead of adding to the conflict, the Israeli Arab leadership should have used this occasion to make a positive contribution to its resolution.

Perhaps it is too much to ask for an explicit recognition of the mistakes of 1947 and 1948 that led to the "catastrophe," but at least they should be able to acknowledge this among themselves and end the propaganda campaign.

They are strong and mature enough to lead the Arab world into acknowledging the legitimacy of the State of Israel and the need for historic compromise.

## Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

### On memory

As if to lend additional depth to the oceans which yawn between them, Israeli and American TV viewers are obsessed these days with programs as disparate as *Tkuma* and *Schindler's List*, while we here debate the merits, historicity, and ulterior motives of a 22-part documentary's chapter on Palestinian-Jewish bloodshed.

Americans are busy wondering whether Jerry and Elaine might actually get married in the closing episode, later this year, of this decade's most popular sitcom.

One can only envy America's lack of a need to ponder day and night on the tragic landmarks which dotted its way to the era of peace, prosperity, and relative good feeling which it is currently experiencing.

THEOLOGICALS can comfortably assert that a faith's believers are at all times and places one and the same, and therefore also hold them collectively responsible for this or that cataclysm; historians cannot. Hence the intrinsic conflict of interest between clerics and explorers.

Considering the rabbinical role in the derelict resort to arms against mighty Rome, history students are revolted by the suggestion that the ones who lost this land 19 centuries ago were not that era's charlatan Jewish leaders, but their victims, namely subsequent generations of ordinary Jews. For most rabbis, however, a secular exploration of the past was anathema, since it might have denied their spiritual stature. That is why, according to

**History judges the powers that be, and as such must be kept away from the claws of political sponsors**

Ours, to be sure, is an entirely different lot.

With Yasser Arafat fathoming the Jewish plight at the Anne Frank House, the mayor of Berlin questioning the need for yet another Holocaust monument, Limor Livnat scolding the writers of *Tkuma*, and all of us about to recall our collective inception as we break matza on the Seder night - the past is practically inescapable.

Considering that for us the injunction to remember is a religious imperative, as Columbia University's Y.H. Yerushalmi put it in his treatise on Jewish memory *Zakhor*, Jews have always been preoccupied with the past; in fact, even more than they were with the future. For millennia, our ancestors lit candles on Hanukkah, shunned bread on Pessah, and read the *megillah* on Purim, thus celebrating previous generations' victories over tyranny while doing nothing about their own subjugation.

Still, the Jews were lousy historians.

Ever since the writing of the Books of Maccabees, which were heavily influenced by contemporary non-Jewish literary trends, and with the professionally problematic exception of Josephus Flavius, Jews seldom wrote history until the 19th century. The Sages, according to Hebrew University historian M.D. Herr, though well-versed in and intensely intrigued by a host of other secular disciplines, not only didn't write but also didn't read history. In the spirit of the talmudic dictum *may d'have hava*, or "what was - was."

Indeed, the advice hidden in Moses' will to the wandering Israelites, "remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations," was heeded up to its middle, i.e. the "commemorating," or chronicling part, while avoiding the "considering," or researching, part. And so, whether deliberately or not, among the many things which were apparently lost by the Jews along with their sovereignty was the urge to actively and impartially explore their past, wars and all.

The few works that did follow such momentous calamities as the Crusades, the Spanish Expulsion or the Chmielnitzky pogroms were basically lamentations, which rather than systematically probe the political, economic and cultural settings in which Jews were persecuted, simply attributed catastrophe to Jewish sin and Godly wrath; much like the prayer which will be said next week in synagogues the world over, "Because of our sins, we were exiled from our land."

Kabbala scholar Gershon Scholem, they did their best to suppress, rewrite, and conceal their glib acceptance of Shabbetai Tzvi as the messiah back in the 17th century.

To be sure, in its tendency to mythologize rather than explore the past, Judaism wasn't much different from other faiths, from Catholicism to communism. Now, our self-styled priests of nation-state are following in their religious ancestors' footsteps, in a pathetic attempt to block a broadcast about the enemy's view of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Most of us have yet to actually watch the controversial "Biladi, Biladi" episode of *Tkuma*, which is scheduled to be aired Sunday night. But suppose it is biased, partial, and disingenuous, as it is indeed prone to be: so what? What prevents others from producing and broadcasting an antithetical version?

Evidently, such a celebration of introspection is exactly what the series opponents fear most. Rather, they'd like a single-voiced, state-sponsored history which, like a Marxist presidium, a Catholic conclave, or a Pessah Haggada, would sketch a one-dimensional, slavery-salvation-redemption sequence. But history, like journalism, is all about scrutinizing the powers that be, and as such must by definition be kept away from their claws.

That can also explain why a terrified cabinet secretary Dan Naveh hastily labeled Arafat's visit to the Anne Frank House "a gimmick," a mode of political behavior apparently unacceptable to Naveh's boss. Though by no means idyllic, Arafat's gesture does offer a thought-provoking aftermath to Mufti Haj Amin el-Husseini's waltzing with Hitler.

In 1991, the American TV network PBS produced a highly acclaimed, groundbreaking, and little-challenged documentary about the US Civil War. Part of its success was due to its leadership by two historians, one a black woman and the other a white, male Southerner. Ours is still an active conflict, and as such is not yet likely to breed that sort of harmonious project which enjoys the benefit of both historical hindsight and emotional healing. Some day, however, that documentary will be produced, and when that day arrives, our TV concerns will also focus on something like *Schindler's List*. Until then, we'll have to make do with Israel's leading an ear to "Biladi, Biladi" and Arafat to Anne Frank. While far from enough, it's still a lot more than nothing.

## The threat of biological terrorism

Last week's official alert that Iraq might try to smuggle anthrax into the UK for a terrorist attack suggests the extraordinarily serious danger that Saddam Hussein still poses, despite the Gulf War and the sanctions that have been in place since 1990.

Nor is concern limited to Britain. Israeli officials in recent talks in Washington have reportedly raised the possibility that terrorists might shift to more extreme methods. Since Israel knows a great deal about terrorism and does not ordinarily consult the US on that issue, one might infer that the concern is unconventional terrorism. And that, particularly biological terrorism, represents an enormous problem.

Among all its proscribed weapons programs, Baghdad has made the most effort to conceal its biological weapons (BW) program. To this day, Iraq has turned over none of stockpile, of these weapons, while just a few weeks ago, Richard Butler, chairman of UNSCOM, the UN weapons inspectors, once again described Iraq's BW program as a "black hole."

Anthrax was a major component of Iraq's BW program. It is not easy to carry out an anthrax attack. Its lethal dissemination requires that it be aerosolized at a small, precise size - around 1/5000th of an inch - so that when inhaled, it will be absorbed into the bloodstream.

However, if that were done successfully, the consequences would be appalling.

Official US estimates for casualties produced by an airplane, flying upwind of a city, releasing an anthrax cloud, range from 100,000 to three million dead. An individual driving a car around a medium-size city spewing anthrax out the tailpipe would cause some 70,000 fatalities; two individuals in two cars in two cities, 140,000.

The sole effective protection is the anthrax vaccine. But it is in very short supply. It is not available to US citizens, for example. What exists is going to the US

Laurie Mylroie

military, as the State Department recently said.

Antibiotics cannot provide protection unless they are administered immediately after contact, before symptoms appear. As the US Army surgeon general explained, "If you start them after symptoms occur, it's too late." Yet authorities would not recognize that an anthrax attack had occurred, until people showed

**Israel, in the Oslo Accords, may have introduced a fifth column, prepared to carry out a devastating biological attack on Saddam's behalf**

symptoms - and then it would be too late to administer antibiotics.

Moreover, by the time such an attack was discovered, those who had carried it out would have fled, making it hard to determine who had been behind it. That would make it difficult to retaliate with a massive punitive strike, expectation of which ordinarily serves as deterrent to an unconventional assault.

IN the last Iraq crisis, Israelis geared up for an attack by missiles, perhaps carrying biological agents. But if Saddam meant to attack Israel with BW agents, wouldn't he be more likely to do so through terrorist means, which are deniable and offer a technologically easier and more effective way to disperse such agents?

Much of the security forces of the Palestinian Authority were based in Iraq before coming to the West Bank and Gaza. How many individuals, even high PA officials, have been suborned by Iraqi intelligence? Oslo has been criticized on many grounds, but a point yet to be made is that in con-

cluding that agreement, Israel, in the worst case, may have introduced a fifth column, prepared to carry out a devastating BW attack on Saddam's behalf.

Israelis may think they can trust the US to handle the Iraqi threat. But they do not understand President Bill Clinton. Clinton views foreign policy as a menu from which he can pick and choose what he wants to do.

Without great difficulty, the US could get rid of Saddam by supporting the main opposition group, the Iraqi National Congress, and backing it with US air power. But Clinton does not want to do that. Although he and his senior advisers have identified the fundamental, irreducible threat - BW terrorism - they fail to draw the logical conclusion.

Clinton's policy is to "contain" Saddam, not overthrow him, even as the containment of Iraq looks to be an increasingly faltering proposition.

Saddam might use the proscribed unconventional weapons that he will not turn over to UNSCOM, including his biological agents, under a variety of circumstances. He could use them if he believed he was going down. And he could use them when he felt himself to be in a strong position and able to get away with it.

Saddam's hit list surely includes the US and Israel. Thus, it is worth recalling the extraordinarily prescient words of the late Uriel Dann, professor of history at Tel Aviv University, who in June 1991 warned, "Saddam Hussein does not forget and forgive... The day will come when he will hit... He may, by the grace of God, miscalculate, as he has miscalculated in the past. But even so the innocent will pay by the millions. This must never be put out of mind: Saddam Hussein, from now on, lives for revenge."

Dann dismissed George Bush and his advisers as "weak fools" for letting Saddam off the hook. But now that we can see how Saddam might carry out the revenge that Dann anticipated, what more should be said about us?



## Reflections while cleaning for Pessah

A few years back, my wife came upon me scurrying about the kitchen on my hands and knees vigorously attacking the floorboards with toothpicks in an effort to remove the encrustation of several months. "When you were in law school, did you ever imagine yourself doing this?" she asked.

Her question caught me off guard. Though I happen to delight in this particular activity, as I watch the transformation of the kitchen under my ministrations, I had to admit that cleaning floorboards had not been part of my career plan when I graduated.

On a deeper level my wife's question set off a sort of reverie, as I contemplated the enormous changes in my life in the last two decades.

Despite my share of prizes and honors in law school, today I lead my classmates in only two categories - least money earned since graduation and most children. The fame and fortune that I once assumed awaited me as a matter of course have somehow eluded me.

My law professors included many of the finest legal minds in America. I admired virtually every one of them - this one for his sharp wit, another for his civil rights work in Mississippi in the early '60s, yet another for his ability to force us, with his gentle prodding questions, to think hard-

er that we had imagined ourselves capable.

And yet I never thought of any of them as a model for what a human life could be. I admired individual traits, not the whole individual. Had I asked myself then what I found lacking, I could not have answered, for I had never yet seen the quality that I sensed was missing. That would not come

JONATHAN ROSENBLUM

"A false consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds." Any lack of consistency in our lives reflects a failure to "set God before me, always."

I had many friends in law school - friends with whom I enjoyed discussing both ideas and trivia

**I have finally learned that God's gifts do not confer merit. They are just that - gifts - to be judged by what we do with them**

until years later when I was first privileged to be in the presence of a Torah scholar.

That elusive quality, which I could not even describe, but which I found lacking in everyone I knew (most of all myself), I would now call integrity.

By integrity I do not mean the usual dictionary definition of honesty.

Rather I mean the quality of living a life that is integral, of a piece - a life not characterized by the familiar modern dichotomies of work and play, work and family, public morality and private morality. That quality can only come from one source: the knowledge that all life, whether we are in solitude or among a multitude, is lived in front of God.

Not for us Emerson's dictum -

(often within such a short space of time that I now wonder whether the ideas were not just another form of trivia.) Though these friends had emerged victorious in what is arguably America's most rigorous academic selection process, and many possessed gifts that seemed to me truly formidable, I never envied them or thought to myself, "When will I reach their level?"

In part, I suppose, this was because few of us had yet done anything, though this in no way diminished our confidence in our innate superiority, both intellectual and moral. We started with the assumption that we were among the world's elite. Law school was just to provide us with the tools to force the fools and wicked of the world to conform to our vision of

right and wrong.

There is no time today to maintain the number of friendships of those years. Yet I know many people, contemporaries and those much younger, of whom I am in awe, people whose very presence makes me acutely aware of my many failures. And I am not talking about well-known scholars or *tzadikim*.

Sensing how little he thought of himself, they were ashamed to think so highly of themselves.

They had never before met a contemporary they could truly look up to. For the first time, they were forced to acknowledge someone who through his discipline, sacrifice and genuine concern for others had raised himself to a qualitatively different level of being. His example alone brought many to a life of Torah and mitzvas.

The reverie triggered by my wife's question is over and I ask myself: Any regrets about the path not taken? Well, there is still a momentary twinge when I read about a friend who has just been appointed Solicitor General of the United States or that some fellow a few classes ahead is president. But that usually lasts no longer than it takes the next child to walk through the door.

And I bet Bill doesn't get to do floorboards.

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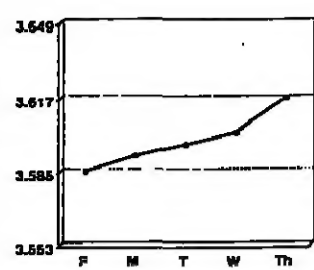
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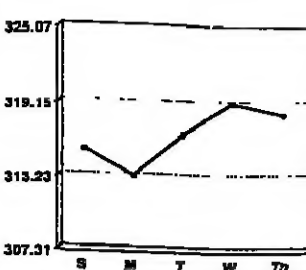
## MARKETS

in brief

### DOLLAR / SHEKEL

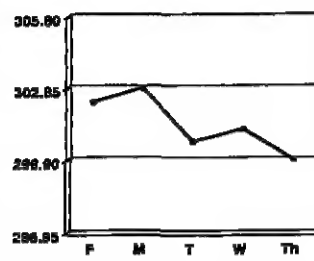


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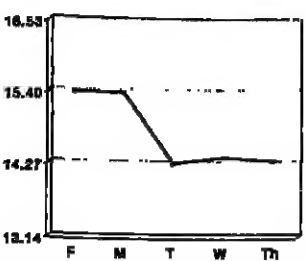
### GOLD

\$ per ounce

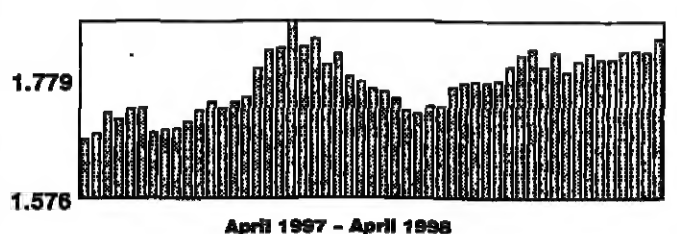


### OIL

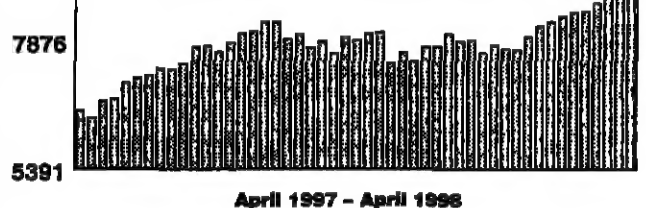
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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## BITS & BYTES

By NINA GILBERT

### Seal Systems to enlist \$1.5m.

Seal Systems Ltd., a Jerusalem start-up established last year, is to enlist \$1.5 million in venture capital, after which it plans to move out of the Har Hotzvim technological incubator, company CEO Uri Savaroy said yesterday. The company's secure electronic signature program, the PrivateSeal version of the Authorizer, was chosen as the Best Executive Perk at the recent CeBIT conference by Time magazine.

Authorizer is the first program able to reproduce signatures on any electronic document, with the highest graphic quality and state-of-the-art security encryption. The product, released recently, has been licensed by Alirad Ltd. of Kfar Sava as a strategic addition to its suite of document security solutions.

### Awards for Check Point's FireWall-1, VocalTec

Check Point Software Technologies, headquartered in Ramat Gan, has won the 1998 Network Magazine Product of the Year award in the firewall category for its FireWall-1 3.0 enterprise security software suite. Winners of the competitions are highlighted in this month's issue.

Check Point FireWall-1 is an enterprise security suite which combines Internet, intranet, and remote user access control with authentication, encryption, Virtual Private Networking (VPN), network address translation (NAT) and content screening.

VocalTec Communications's Telephony Gateway 3.1 won the magazine's Product of the Year Award in the Telephony Gateway category. The product is part of VocalTec's end-to-end business communications solutions for the corporate and carrier markets.

### Meg@tive to cooperate with HK's Goldnet

Meg@tive, the Lod-based provider of long-distance telecommunications services via the Internet, has signed a strategic cooperation agreement with the Hong Kong company Goldnet, which specializes in pre-paid dialing cards.

The company, established at the end of 1997, said that as a result of the agreement, by next week it expects stations to begin operating in Holland, Germany and Hong Kong.

Meg@tive's service can already be accessed in about 15 countries, but not in Israel. Meg@tive is part of the Incom Group, a privately held multinational advanced telecommunications concern established in 1991.

### RADCOM to expand in Latin America

RADCOM Ltd., the Tel Aviv-based maker of has opened a new office in Florida to engage in marketing in the emerging Latin American data communications market.

According to the company, increased investment in infrastructure in various Latin American countries, coupled with the deregulation of the market in many places, led it to increase its presence in the region. In addition to the Florida office, RADCOM has a company representative in Brazil. RADCOM develops, markets and manufactures testing equipment for data communications networks. The company's revenues in 1997 were \$20.6m.

## Lehman Brothers buys 2% of Bank Leumi for \$52m.

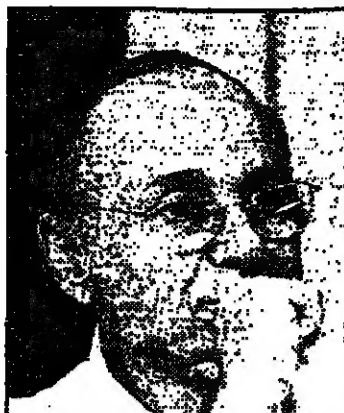
By DAN GERSTENFELD

Lehman Brothers yesterday purchased two percent of Bank Leumi from the government for \$52 million, the Finance Ministry announced.

Meir Jacobson, general manager of MI Holdings, the company in charge of selling the state's bank holdings, said the block of shares was offered on Wednesday in a special tender to four international investment houses: Lehman Brothers, Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs Group, and UBS Securities.

Lehman's offer, which values Leumi at \$2.6 billion, was the highest, although it was 3% below the market value of the bank at the opening of trading yesterday.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said the selling of government holdings in the bank will continue and would even be accelerated.



Yaakov Neeman (Brian Headley)

He added that the sale reflects the confidence of investors in the Israeli economy.

The recent investment marks the deepening of the involvement of the

US financial institution here. The first step was taken in February when Lehman invested NIS 40m. in the institutional offering of Bezeq Israel Telecom.

In the past, Lehman's activity was limited to acting as an underwriter and adviser to local companies and the government.

The company has arranged the sale of Bank Leumi shares to institutional investors abroad and managed the bond flotation of the Israel Electric Corp. and Koor Industries.

In addition, it arranged in January the last issue of Israel government bonds, backed by the US government, in which the Finance Ministry raised \$1.4 billion on the US market.

The investment in Bank Leumi is seen, however, only as a financial investment, and the shares will probably be sold in the future.

Neeman said the Treasury is hold-



Shai Talmon (Ariel Jerozolimsky)

ing negotiations with potential investors on the sale of controlling stakes in Bank Leumi and Israel Discount Bank.

The government currently holds

63% of Leumi's equity, including 10% which would be sold to bank workers.

Accountant General Shai Talmon added that the government intends to sell another 5% of Bank Leumi by offering convertible bonds to local and foreign institutional investors.

The sale would be based on its first quarter results.

Earlier this week, Bank Leumi reported that net profit soared 109.1% last year to NIS 1.26b., turning it into the most profitable Israeli company ever.

The main reason for the rise in the bank's profits was that the sum included income from the sale of the bank's excess non-banking holdings for a net figure of NIS 475.4m.

Net profit from ordinary operations in 1997 increased 42.3% to NIS 788m.

## Neeman pledges rail rethink

By DAVID HARRIS

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman will present fresh proposals for the funding of Israel Railways' operations within the next six weeks, he said yesterday.

During a tour of the railways, the minister apparently changed his mind on funding, according to Israel Railways General Manager Amos Uzani.

"At the start of the tour he told us that there is need for large-scale investment in the private sector," Uzani explained. "But by the end of the tour he said he would look again at the possibility of government funding. I am sure there will be funding; the question is how much."

At issue is not the longer-term Israel 2000 project but the more immediate needs of the railway network, including urgently required repairs.

Uzani said he listed four train lines for which he believes the

government should provide some NIS \$15 million: the routes from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Beersheba, and Rehovot, and the Rishon LeZion-Rosh Ha'ayin line. This sum would also cover the establishment of stations at either end of Tel Aviv's Ayalon highway.

Neeman was the latest senior official to ride the new "tilting" train. The train is capable of taking tight curves at much higher speeds than conventional trains and it is thought it can reduce journey time between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv from some two hours down to 55 minutes.

At the end of his trip, Neeman promised that he would work with his Treasury staff to produce an aid package for the railways. Within a few weeks he would also discuss the issue with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before presenting proposals for cabinet approval, he said.

On January 4, the cabinet approved additional funding for

Israel Railways to allow for the opening of a high-speed rail service between Tel Aviv and Beersheba by late 1998.

During the same meeting the government increased Israel Railways' budget by NIS 85m. to NIS 245m., including NIS 100m. to upgrade the Beersheba line.

This however, falls well short of Uzani's request for a budget of NIS 500m. in this and each of the next four years.

While the Treasury has acknowledged the need for increased spending on trains, its budgetary restrictions make that move very difficult.

Moreover, the National Infrastructure Ministry is proposing that a new government rail company should be responsible for issuing BOT (build, operate and transfer) tenders.

Legislation creating this new company will be submitted to the Knesset during its summer session.

## Indonesia, IMF close to agreement

Indonesia and the International Monetary Fund are nearing an accord on ways to address the country's \$71 billion in private foreign debt, an Indonesian official said.

The IMF and the government say they're considering a plan that would guarantee a better exchange rate for Indonesian companies seeking to repay foreign debt.

This would be in return for an agreement from foreign banks to reduce the size of the debt and

extend the repayment period to four years or more.

Concern about debt is perhaps the biggest obstacle to a return of foreign investment and the recovery of the rupiah, in the aftermath of Asia's currency and economic crisis, say investors and analysts.

The two sides are now preparing the mechanism that will be used to resolve the private debt problem. Rudianto Prawiro, head of President Suharto's private debt

team, said after meetings with top IMF and government officials.

The IMF's Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer arrived in Jakarta last night for talks. Rudianto said they'll discuss ways of addressing private debt today.

Rudianto also met Japanese Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs Eisuke Sakakibara today.

Japanese banks are the biggest creditors to Indonesian companies, with about \$23 billion in loans outstanding. (Bloomberg)

## MKs consider duty-free changes

By DAVID HARRIS

The Knesset tax sub-committee will consider proposing several changes to the rules controlling supervision of the duty-free operation at Ben Gurion Airport, sub-committee chairman Ophir Pines (Labor) said yesterday.

During a tour of the airport's facilities, Pines said several of the existing rules and the failure to implement others give consumers unnecessary advantages.

Among the problems Pines said he intends rectifying is that shoppers can exceed the \$200 duty-free limit by making purchases of \$199.99 in each of the various shops.

The sub-committee will discuss introducing a system which will limit purchases to a maximum amount which cannot be exceeded.

On the other hand, those participating in the visit noted that in some cases prices are comparable or even more expensive than those on the regular market.

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**Rafiah and Taba Border Crossing Posts**

Because of a Moslem holiday, the above border crossing posts will be closed on Tuesday, April 7. The Taba post will close on Monday, April 6 at midnight, and reopen at midnight on Tuesday, April 7. The Rafiah post will close on Monday, April 6, at 11 a.m., and reopen on April 8 at 1 a.m.

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| Westman 2   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 3   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 4   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 5   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 6   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 7   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 8   | 26.1 | -1.2 |
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| Westman 387 | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 388 | 26.1 | -1.2 |
| Westman 389 | 26.  |      |

|               | LAST    | CHANGE |
|---------------|---------|--------|
| West H&A      | 27.875  | +1.125 |
| Western Union | 28.875  | +0.125 |
| Amtek Inc.    | 29.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar        | 30.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Corp.  | 31.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 32.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 33.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 34.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 35.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 36.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 37.875  | +0.125 |
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| Amstar Div.   | 39.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 40.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 41.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 42.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 43.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 44.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 45.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 46.875  | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 47.875  | +0.125 |
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| Amstar Div.   | 128.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 129.875 | +0.125 |
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| Amstar Div.   | 131.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 132.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 133.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 134.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 135.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 136.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 137.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 138.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 139.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 140.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 141.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 142.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 143.875 | +0.125 |
| Amstar Div.   | 144.875 | +0.125 |

[illegible]

LAST CHANCE

| AMEX                   |        |         |
|------------------------|--------|---------|
| Israel Paper Mills     | 36.25  | -0.25   |
| Israel American Israel | 5.625  | -0.0625 |
| Micro Chemical Ind     | 0.9375 | -0.0625 |
| Lavud                  | 9      | 0       |
| Lavud Cl A             | 7.125  | 0       |
| egrated Technology     | 1.3125 | -0.0625 |
| armel Containers Sys   | 8.875  | +0.0625 |

## NASDAQ

|                             |         |        |
|-----------------------------|---------|--------|
| Electronic Data             | 0.0319  | -0.076 |
| Enterprise Software         | 0.0307  | -0.075 |
| Financial Associates        | 0.0297  | -0.075 |
| General                     | 0.0276  | -0.073 |
| Graphic                     | 0.0269  | -0.073 |
| IBM                         | 16.0629 | -0.026 |
| IBM Advertising Ltd.        | 2.512   | -0.026 |
| IBM Business                | 3.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Data Center Solutions   | 4.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Data Processing General | 5.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Data Services           | 6.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Data Systems            | 7.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Data Technology         | 8.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Datacom                 | 9.979   | -0.026 |
| IBM Datacom Systems         | 10.979  | -0.026 |
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| IBM Datacom Systems         | 100.979 | -0.026 |

14.0625 -0.18

| NYSE                      |         |         |
|---------------------------|---------|---------|
| Blue Square               | 13.125  | +0.0625 |
| U.S.P. Communications     | 15.9375 | -0.0625 |
| Scint                     | 7.25    | +0.0625 |
| First Israel Fund         | 13.9375 | +0      |
| IEC Israeli Economic Corp | 23.8125 | +0.1875 |
| ICor                      | 25.4375 | +0.25   |
| Simula Inc                | 15.6125 | +0.1875 |
| Super-Soil Ltd            | 16.5    | +0.3125 |
| Adman                     | 42.75   | +0.125  |

COMSTOCK

| LONDON                |       |    |
|-----------------------|-------|----|
| Satm Advanced         | 150   | -1 |
| Orasak Ltd            | 17    | -2 |
| Geo Interactive Media | 148.5 | +0 |
| Plat                  | 62.5  | +0 |
| S.E.A. Multimedia     | 4.5   | +0 |

SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK

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# INTERNATIONAL SHARES

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LAST CHAIR

## NEW YORK

|                |         |       |
|----------------|---------|-------|
| Alice          | 47.125  | -0.87 |
| AMP Inc        | 43.375  | +0.31 |
| AMF Corp       | 142.500 | +1.43 |
| ASA            | 23.0625 | +0.51 |
| Abbott Labs    | 77.8125 | +1.11 |
| Advanced Micro | 29.3125 | -0.63 |
| Aetna Life     | 86.5    | -2.00 |
| Artifical Publ | 23.625  | +0.12 |
| AT&T           | 66.375  | +0.11 |

|         |      |
|---------|------|
| 80      | 0.12 |
| 82.8125 | 0.3  |
| 91.75   | 0.1  |

|                  |         |       |
|------------------|---------|-------|
| Albermarle Corp. | 59.76   | +0.8  |
| Albertson's      | 30.8125 | +0.16 |
| Alcan Aluminum   | 44.5    | +2.0  |
| Allied Signal    | 69.76   | +1.2  |
| Alcoa            | 46.1875 | +1.5  |
| Ameren           | 59.8125 | +0.4  |
| Amerasia Hess    | 24      | +0.13 |
| Amer Brocade     | 50.5    | +0.1  |
| Amer El Power    | 94.4375 | +2.0  |
| Amer Express     | 54      | +0.6  |
| Amer Gentl Corp. | 43.4375 | +2.9  |
| Amer Greatlnd    |         |       |

|               |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Vulcan        | --- | --- | --- |
| Vulcan Bond 1 | --- | 220 | 0   |

\*In local currencies



|                    | LAST  | CHANGE |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Deutsche Bank      | 174.8 | +3.05  |
| Lufthansa          | 28    | +0.05  |
| Mannesmann         | 148   | +0.8   |
| Metallgesellschaft | 140   | -0.5   |
| Volkswagen         | 1450  | +0.5   |

**SOURCE: S&P COMSTOCK (DATE 3-APR-88)**

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES**

|                     | Last   | Change |
|---------------------|--------|--------|
| S\$ (British) (1)   | 3.8498 | -      |
| U.S. dollar (1)     | 3.617  | -      |
| British pound (1)   | 2.9131 | -      |
| Deutsche Mark (1)   | 1.9538 | -      |
| French franc (1)    | 0.563  | -      |
| Japanese Yen (100)  | 2.70   | -      |
| Swiss franc (1)     | 2.70   | -      |
| Sterling (100)      | 2.5472 | -      |
| Canadian dollar (1) | 1.3615 | -      |
| Japanese Yen (100)  | 1.3515 | -      |

**NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES**

|                | Last    | Change  |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| DJ Industrials | 8081.8  | +115.37 |
| DJ Transport   | 3614.76 | +3.84   |
| DJ 30          | 2955.85 | +1.19   |
| NYSE Index     | 2915.31 | -39.94  |
| NYSE Transp.   | 720.81  | -8.58   |
| NYSE Comm.     | 53.65   | -0.64   |
| NYSE CBO       | 581.89  | -5.58   |
| S&P 500 Index  | 337.9   | -4.87   |
| S&P Spot Index | 515.95  | +11.84  |

**(THE MARKET) INDEXES**

|                           | Last      | Change |
|---------------------------|-----------|--------|
| FTSE 100                  | 8023.3    | -35.7  |
| Tyoto Milieu              | 16702.8   | -538.7 |
| Nikkei 225                | 15,495.78 | -78    |
| Hong Kong Hang Seng index | 11189.7   | -141.7 |
| Shanghai                  | 247.16    | +1.26  |
| Pan Pacific AC            | 3035.88   | 57.7   |
| DAK                       | 5154.21   | -51.86 |
| SEAS Market Index         | 898.73    | -10.08 |
| London                    | 7692.9    | -25.5  |
| Sydney                    | 2767.58   | +4.1   |
|                           | 1584.9    | -87.92 |

**DOLLAR CROSSEARS (US\$)**

|                   | Last    | Change  |
|-------------------|---------|---------|
| Pound: spot       | 1.8938  | -0.0054 |
| Jan. future (CME) | 1.8584  | -0.0006 |
| Mark: spot        | 1.7484  | -0.0004 |
| Jan. future (CME) | 1.7047  | -0.0007 |
| S-Franc: spot     | 1.5327  | -0.0008 |
| Jan. future (CME) | 1.4568  | -0.0001 |
| Yen: spot         | 133.82  | -0.0001 |
| Jan. future (CME) | 130.76  | -56.006 |
| Australian: spot  | 1.5281  | -0.0025 |
| Jan. future (CME) | 1.4754  | -0.0016 |
| Italian: spot     | 0.0557  | -0.0002 |
| Austrian: spot    | 1.6678  | -0.0004 |
| F-Franc: spot     | 8.7155  | -0.0015 |
| Y-Franc: spot     | 1687.36 | -2.45   |
| Belg. spot        | 2.0859  | -0.0003 |
| Austrian spot     | 13.0426 | -0.0374 |
| Swiss spot        | 5.042   | -0.003  |
| ECU: spot         | 1.0795  | -0.001  |

**US COMMODITIES**

|                   | Last | Change |
|-------------------|------|--------|
| Cocoa April (COC) | 1940 | +14    |

|                     |         |         |
|---------------------|---------|---------|
| Soybean May (CBOT)  | 147.3   | -3.65   |
| Heating Oil (C)     | 21.75   | -0.10   |
| Soybean May (CBOT)  | 545.75  | -2.5    |
| Soybean Meal (CBOT) | 5.34    | -0.01   |
| Orange Juice (CSC)  | 101.85  | -0.7    |
| Cocoa (May) (CEC)   | 1,038   | -10     |
| Cocoa - June/June   | 181.438 | +0.8675 |
| 5 and 7 June/June   | 1132    | +13.03  |

| LONDON COMMODITIES            |       |        |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|
|                               | Last  | Change |
| Cocoa (May) (LCE)             | 1038  | -10    |
| Crude oil (May) (LCE)         | 147.4 | +34    |
| Heating crude oil (May) (WPE) | 1917  | +26    |

| SPOT MARKET METALS (US) |      |        |
|-------------------------|------|--------|
|                         | Last | Change |
| Silver: spot            | 8.56 | +0.16  |

| NEW YORK METAL FUTURES  |       |        |
|-------------------------|-------|--------|
|                         | Last  | Change |
| Gold (May)              | 369.3 | +0.30  |
| Silver (May)            | 8.53  | +0.19  |
| Platinum (May)          | 408.5 | -1.0   |
| High-grade copper (May) | 261   | +0.5   |
| High-grade copper (May) | 672.2 | +0.006 |

| LONDON METAL FIXES |       |        |
|--------------------|-------|--------|
|                    | Last  | Change |
| Gold AM fix        | 299.2 | -2.3   |
| Gold PM fix        | 302.2 | -0.7   |
| Silver fix (April) | 844.4 | -1.1   |

(Gold fix in parentheses includes carry over exp.)  
(Spot metal holdings are from approximately 2:30 local time, all other are spot prices.)

SOURCE: S&P COMMODITY (DATE: 3-27-88)

## Wall Street

## Europe

Elbit Medical gained 4.3 per-

Frankfurt shares climbed one percent to reach a trading high of

1000

"Confidence is both extremely

Banks led the slide as foreigners sold shares on expectation the

(Bloomberg)

first vice president at Mc Dermott & Co.

**Dollar 3.6170 ▲ 0.42%**  
**Basket 3.8428 ▲ 0.34%**  
**Mark 1.9536 ▲ 0.27%**  
**Sterling 6.0400 ▲ 0.14%**

\_\_\_\_\_

Gold \$299.85 ▲ 0.54%  
Crude Oil \$143 ▲ 0.37%  
CRB 226.63 no change

or in field by producers, con-

(Bloomberg)

**US 30-year T-bill yield**  
**5.88 no change**

who was so respected, so powerful, this is the ultimate humilia-

were not immune from prosecution. (News agencies)

**ORIGINAL: Original Language: Malayalam (2.4.56)**

[illegible]

He went on trial on October 8 on charges of ordering the arrest for deportation of 1,560 Jews.

But he said Papon did not

## Papon of complicity in the murder of Jews deported from

who was so respected, so powerful, this is the ultimate humili-

were not immune from prosecution.



## Crisis with the US – what crisis?

Is the administration on the verge of pulling the carpet out from under Israel's feet? Or is the current tension stage-managed, a ritual to help bring Israel and the Palestinians together? Herb Keinon listens to the experts

In this land of extremes – hot and cold, right and wrong, black and white, meat and milk – everything seems to turn into a banner-headline crisis. Precious little remains *parve*.

Inevitable political haggling between coalition parties is never seen as just that, it is automatically termed a "coalition crisis."

Natural horse trading over the state budget is never seen as natural horse trading over the budget – it automatically becomes a "budgetary crisis."

And natural disputes with the US can never be seen as the inevitable disputes with a very close ally; they are necessarily billed as "a crisis in bilateral relations." It is almost as if this country needs the adrenaline charge these crises and other mini-crises provide. They give us something to talk about, to worry about, to fret over. They are a part of our lives, almost an anchor.

But what does the word "crisis" mean when it is bandied about with reference to Israel's relations with the US? Does a crisis with the US mean Uncle Sam is on the verge of turning his back on us, pulling the carpet out from under our feet at the UN, cutting off aid?

Recent media reports referred to an emerging, or even full-blown, crisis with the US over the next stage of redeployment. This characterization was strengthened by a "candid" briefing Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had with Jewish leaders last month, in which she reportedly expressed "exasperation" with the Netanyahu government.

So is a crisis at hand? And, if so, what does it entail?

THE TERM crisis is used so often, says Hebrew University political science professor Ira Shkarsky, that it has lost its meaning and its bite.

What is going on, he says, is "a dance, where each side in the negotiations – Israel and the Palestinians – has a serious problem in convincing the extremes in its own camp to go along with the process."

"So it is necessary to do a lot of dancing, a lot of crisis management and crisis creation before each side agrees to the obvious compromise."

But, Shkarsky says, to call "all the ritualized tension of negotiations a crisis is to empty the word of its meaning altogether. It isn't a crisis, it is managed tension to help bring the sides together."

Shkarsky says that the cool winds blowing from Washington help Prime Minister Netanyahu tell his right wing: "Look how hard I've tried to hold out – but if I don't give something it will damage relations with the US."

Thus what we are seeing now, Shkarsky maintains, is no crisis in Israel-US ties, but "the appearance of crisis, a shadow. It is stage-managed. Everyone knows what everyone is doing, and why."

There are those who argue that if you want to point to a real crisis in relations with the US, you need to go no further back than the early 1990s, to the days of the Bush-Baker administration and the conflicts over the Madrid conference,



No real risk of a breakdown in relations: Prime Minister Netanyahu follows US mediator Dennis Ross into the Prime Minister's Office at the end of last month. (AP)

the settlements and the loan guarantee.

These were the days when Secretary of State James Baker was reported to have said, "F— the Jews – they don't vote for us, anyway." That remark, as well as president George Bush's saying that he was just "one little guy" in Washington battling the gargantuan Jewish lobby (and Baker's sarcastic quip to the effect that if the Israelis were sincere about peace, they should call the White House switchboard), sounded distinctly like the background flourish to a serious crisis. Albright's words of exasperation pale in comparison.

But, Shkarsky maintains, it is all just a matter of style. "What Baker said is part of the language, part of the ritualized conflict. Baker reportedly said what he said – and now Albright has reportedly said something a little less."

The message is essentially the same, Shkarsky stresses. It is just that Albright isn't a man, and doesn't talk in the way a Texas oil-

man would.

"Also, she has the problem of her own (Jewish) background. But like Baker, she's dancing. Her message is the same as Baker's, and it is equally false, equally stage-managed."

YOSSEI Ben-Aharon, who was director-general of the Prime Minister's Office under Yitzhak Shamir when Bush and Baker hurled their verbal arrows, claims the current situation with the US is no way similar to what it was then – if for no other reason than that the administration does not have a \$10 billion loan guarantee stuck to wave over Israel's head.

Still, the US does provide Israel with a \$3 billion dollar annual aid package, made up of \$1.2 billion in civilian and \$1.8 billion in defense assistance.

Surely this package, or part of it, can be withheld as a result of one crisis or another?

"Remove that from your mind," Ben-Aharon says emphatically.

"Theoretically they can do it, but there's no chance that they will. Congress won't allow it, and the administration wouldn't do it."

"Many US administrations have become angry with us. But, as Reagan once told Shamir, despite the disagreements, the basic commitment to Israel and its security will remain firm."

Ben-Aharon says that Netanyahu is trying to disarm the US of leverage by volunteering, over a period of years, to wean itself from part of the civilian aid. But the defense aid, he says, is vital to Israel's security, and if the US began playing around with that assistance it would be rattling Israel's sense of security.

"Then there would be no chance of a peace process," Ben-Aharon says firmly. "They would be shooting themselves in the foot."

The US could, Ben-Aharon admits, apply pressure by isolating Israel in the international arena.

"International isolation could make our life difficult, and the

administration may apply it – up to a point. They understand that isolation puts psychological pressure on the population here, who will then pressure the government. Jews don't like to be alone."

Ben-Aharon notes that a critical speech at the UN or a Clinton visit to Europe where he castigates Israel publicly would be enough to create this feeling of isolation. No concrete action on the administration's part would even be necessary.

But he predicts that the current bad blood between Jerusalem and Washington will wash away because "Netanyahu does not want to see the peace process completely frozen. He has to convince the US that his back is to the wall, and he can't give any more."

That way the US will go to Yasser Arafat (Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak and say, "Look, we pressed them as much as we can, now you have to give a little – otherwise there will be nothing."

Ben-Aharon says he isn't sure Netanyahu has convinced the US that Israel's back is, indeed, against the wall.

TO HEAR Ben-Aharon describe the situation, these crisis are all part of the negotiation process. And this, says Raymond Cohen, a Hebrew University professor of International Relations, is exactly how matters should be seen.

The term crisis is overworked, Cohen says. "A lot of people work by generating crises."

You know that what is happening now is not going to lead to a breakdown in relations with the US. They don't have any interest in a breakdown; nor do we. Crises are declared to put a certain spin on events.

"They are supposed to suggest some kind of impending cataclysm. They put all the players on guard, induce a heightened sense of tension and pressure."

Crises, Cohen says, are a very functional aspect of diplomacy and negotiations. "States sometimes artificially

introduce crises so the other party can look at the different alternatives and weigh up their costs and gains."

"With a crisis one party is saying to another: 'Look at what you are endangering by this line of behavior; look at its cost.'"

"Very often, after the crisis comes the breakthrough. In all the major negotiations in the Middle East, all the big breakthroughs followed some kind of crisis."

Cohen says it is likely the US has kept the threat behind the crisis purposefully vague.

"They have not committed to a specific threat. They just want Israel to look at the alternatives, and want public opinion to influence the policy here."

ITAMAR Rabinovich, who served as Israel's ambassador to the US during the rosy, almost crisis-free period of relations during the Rabin-Peres years, disagrees with the notion that the US has been robbed of its leverage now that the loan guarantees have ceased to be an issue, or as a result of Israel paying lip service to the notion that it wants US aid cut back.

"The loan guarantees provided a real carrot and stick, and had much visibility," he says. "But any minor issue or aid can turn into something major."

Asked how this pressure could manifest itself, Rabinovich replies that he is "not in the business of suggesting ways to use leverage on Israel." But, he says, it is no coincidence that a debate is now raging in Washington over whether to provide an additional \$46 million for a third battery of Arrow missiles.

Rabinovich says Israel is not becoming less dependent on US aid, and that it is one thing to declare an intention to want to wean oneself off aid, and something entirely different to actually do it.

"In the rich tissue of relations between Israel and the US and in the degree of dependence there are plenty of ways they can exert pressure," Rabinovich says, even without the loan guarantees.

Rabinovich prefers not to call the recent tension with the US a crisis.

"Since the elections there has been a turn for the worse in our relations, including the personal relationship between the president and the prime minister."

"The last year and a half has not been a good period. But it is not a crisis. I would call it a negative development," he says.

One concern about these "negative developments," says Hebrew University's Shkarsky, is that they can be exploited by Arabists in the State Department who would like to see Israel put in its place.

"There are a few bastards in the theater, people who really don't like Israel, who really think Israel is too aggressive in demanding things from the US," Shkarsky says. "There are people, traditionally referred to as the Arabists in the State Department, who want to remind Israel of what it is – a small, weak, poor country that needs the US."

It is this group whose agenda could benefit from a sustained strain in relations between the two countries.

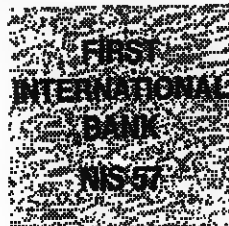
### ISRAEL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY Head Office - Border Crossing Section

## Notice to Those Using the Taba Border Crossing Post

While arrangements have been made to cope with an increased number of travelers to Taba and Sinai at Passover, we recommend that you obtain the necessary documents beforehand:

- Passport valid for at least 3 months (validity cannot be extended at the border post).
- Exit permit from the IDF or stamp in passport – also for youths about to be inducted.
- Crossing fee – payable at the border post, and at the following branches of the International Bank and the Postal Bank:

- TEL AVIV: Mikve Yisrael - 7 Mikve Yisrael
- JERUSALEM: Central - 23 Yafa
- HAIFA: Shikmona - 19 Pal-Yam
- BEERSHEBA: 9 Sd. Haness'im
- EILAT: Macanion Ha'adom - Sd. Hatemarim
- BEIT SHEAN: Reh. Mahistadrut - Council Building
- BEN-GURION AIRPORT: Terminal



- TEL AVIV: Dizengoff - 2 Reines, Dizengoff Square
- JERUSALEM: Main - 10 Hillel
- HAIFA: Main - 3 Habankim
- BEERSHEBA: 53 Ha'atzma'ut
- EILAT: New Tourism Center
- TIBERIAS: Main - Rassco Square
- AFULA: Main - 23 Hativa Telsha

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# The making of 'Biladi, Biladi'

Can anyone making a documentary about Israel's still-raging conflict with the Palestinians be objective? Larry Derfner talks to the producers of the *Tkuma* TV series, whose most controversial episode yet airs on Sunday

Ronit Weiss-Berkowitz, writer-director of the controversial *Tkuma* episode on Palestinian terror, says the film Channel 1 will broadcast Sunday night is a watered-down version of the one she wanted shown.

"I made three versions of the film, and the one chosen to air is the most shallow. The pain of the Palestinians plays a very small part in it, while the pain of Israelis is in the foreground," Weiss-Berkowitz says.

The episode is entitled, "On the Path to Terror - My Homeland, My Homeland." Its original name was just, "My Homeland, My Homeland (*Biladi, Biladi*)," the Palestinian national anthem. Israel Broadcasting Authority officials added the phrase "On the Path to Terror."

The documentary shows how the Palestinians fought their Israeli occupiers, and how Israel fought them, between the end of the 1967 Six Day War and the start of the 1982 Lebanon War. Even in its supposedly diluted version, the film has drawn harsh criticism and been accused of being pro-Palestinian and anti-Israeli.

In his letter of resignation as *Tkuma* host, Yehoram Gaon argued that the documentary "glorified the role of the terrorists." Haifa University history Prof. Yoav Gelber, one of *Tkuma*'s academic advisers, complained to supervising editor Gideon Drori that it belonged in a series marking "the 50th anniversary of the Palestinian Authority," rather than Israel's jubilee.

Yediot Aharonot quoted IBA officials as saying that during the two years the documentary was being prepared they feared it would turn out to be "a Palestinian propaganda film."

Weiss-Berkowitz denies these claims, as does Drori. Israel Television general manager Yair Stern, and IBA executive board chairperson Prof. Rina Shapira.

BUT THE FILM makes no pretense to being objective, if objectivity means a dry presentation of facts without interpretation, a story without a point of view.

"I'm really a political animal, I don't try to hide my political views," Weiss-Berkowitz says. "I think a right-wing director might have done the episode differently - full of hatred, which I don't have."

She maintains, however, that her main goal was to make a good documentary, not a political point.

"There is no such thing as objectivity in news," says Drori. "There is no such thing as objective history," adds Shapira, a Tel Aviv University professor of sociology of education.

The film includes footage from PLO propaganda films, which were captured by the IDF in the Lebanon War, interviews with former Palestinian terrorists, Israeli terror victims, soldiers and military/intelligence officers, and clips of Golda Meir and Yasser Arafat. It has shots of ragged Palestinians in refugee camps, buildings in Lebanon destroyed by Israeli bombs, Israeli buses and classrooms wrecked and bloodied by terrorists, and corpses on both sides.

Weiss-Berkowitz, who directs the Channel 2 weekly news program *Fact*, maintains the episode should have been directed by a Palestinian. She says she wanted to focus on the Palestinians' view of terror, not the Israelis', because every other episode of *Tkuma*, with the exception of a recent one about Israeli Arabs, is told from

**'I wanted to show, step by step, the creation of the ideology behind terrorism - which I reject, but whose roots I understand. I wanted to present the other side - loudly'**

an Israeli perspective.

"I wanted to show, step by step, the creation of the ideology behind terrorism - which I reject, which I don't identify with, but whose roots I understand," she says. "I wanted to show why and how [a Palestinian] starts thinking of terror as a solution. We Israelis think we have a monopoly on blood, tears and pain, but of course this is not true. We know our side in this story. I wanted to present the other side - loudly."

She says she fought constant battles with Drori and episode producer Moshe Golan to tell the story her way, and lost most of them.

She wanted to use more footage from PLO propaganda films - mainly to show the suffering Palestinians endured in the refugee camps and under Israeli reprisal attacks. She also wanted to show how the PLO used propaganda to mold terrorists.

"These films are like [Nazi propagandist] Leni Riefenstahl's films - heroic, brainwashing, but they work," Weiss-Berkowitz says.

Much of this footage, she laments, was cut out in the final version.

An interview in which Abu Daoud, who masterminded the massacre at the 1972 Munich Olympics, remembers how he cradled dying Palestinians in his arms, was cut, as was a clip of Leila Khaled describing how her family was kicked out of their home in Haifa during the War of Independence.

Also excised was a segment in which Fawzi Nimr describes how Jewish children constantly humiliated him when he was growing up in Acre. The interviews with Palestinians took place in the West Bank, Gaza and Amman.

"From the beginning Drori warned me that this was going to be the most controversial episode in the series," Weiss-Berkowitz

continues. "He told me that I was making the film from a biased point of view, that I should remember that Israeli victims of terror would be watching it, and that I couldn't try to create a symmetry between Palestinian suffering and our suffering, that Israeli pain was more significant, and to keep in mind that the film was being shown for Israel's 50th anniversary."

"Drori is a very liberal, open-minded person, [but] I saw him slowly becoming paranoid through trying to please all his masters - the politicians, the IBA. But now, in the end, he's standing by me all the way," Weiss-Berkowitz says.

She commends Drori for resisting pressures to edit the film even more before broadcast.

Drori, however, says he hasn't been under any pressure, and that whatever changes were made were done for professional, not political reasons, "to make the film flow better."

He says that the interview with Abu Daoud was cut "because he wasn't interesting."

The footage from the Palestinian refugee camps was not cut, just broken up and dispersed throughout the film instead of being packed into the beginning, Drori says, "because we didn't want to shock the viewer right away to the point that he'd switch to Channel 2."

"Ronit approached the film with a lot of trepidation," he adds. "Maybe she thought I was going to censor her narrative politically, but there was no pressure on me from above. The political sensitivities here are Ronit's, not mine," he says.

ISRAELI commentators interviewed in the film - including Ehad Barak, retired IDF Gen. Shlomo Gazit and Uri Avneri - are identified, in varying degrees, with the Left. Weiss-Berkowitz says she was instructed to interview Mokedet MK Rehavam "Gandhi" Ze'evi, a retired IDF general and counter-terrorism adviser to prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in the mid-70s. But she didn't use the footage.

"Gandhi said, 'There's no such thing as a Palestinian people... let them go to Jordan,'" Weiss-Berkowitz explains. "I decided not to use him because I had Golda saying the same things, and I thought Golda talking [in the 1970s] would convey the spirit of the times better than Gandhi talking now."

Some of the terminology used in the film are red flags to a lot of Israelis.

Palestinians describing how they killed Israeli civilians are identified by the caption, "Fatah fighter," not "Fatah terrorist."

"They are fighters - they're both terrorists and fighters," explains Drori.

The Israeli term "terror" and the Palestinian term "armed struggle" are used interchangeably by the narrator. "It was an armed struggle, literally, and this is the term they used," Drori says.

Sometimes the documentary uses "their" terms, sometimes "ours." Asked to sum up the message of the film, Weiss-

Berkowitz says: "Both sides are convinced that their pain, their tragedy and their justice is exclu-

sive, but if you place them side by side you see it's not true, and you realize that the cycle of blood could have been broken long before."

Drori believes that the message is: "When one side resorts to vicious terror, you have to look for the deeper motives behind it. Maybe they were pushed to it. I

**'Both sides are convinced that their pain, their tragedy and their justice is exclusive, but if you place them side by side, you see it's not true'**

don't believe the Palestinians are innately evil or bloodthirsty, which is what I was raised to believe."

Drori was also a director and editor of *Pillar of Fire*, a 19-part documentary on the Zionist movement up to the founding of Israel, which Channel 1 broadcast in 1981. He says the difference between *Pillar of Fire*'s "consensual" view of Israel and *Tkuma*'s critical view can be seen in how each series treats the Palestinians.

"During the making of *Pillar of Fire*, we [directors, writers and editors] asked if we could say that there was such a thing as a Palestinian national movement in the 1930s."

The series' editor, Yossi Lossin, agreed that there was, but we couldn't say it. We insisted on it though, and got it in," Drori recalls.

FOLLOWING Gaon's resignation as *Tkuma* host, Communications Minister Limor Livnat voiced her disgust with the series, saying it amounted to "a propaganda film for Israel's enemies."

But after urging that the entire series be taken off the air, Livnat modified her position and asked Shapira only to delay the broadcast of "On the Path to Terror - My Homeland, My Homeland" until an "impartial body" could review the remaining episodes and recommend whether a re-edit was in order.

The IBA's executive board "didn't even discuss the request," Shapira says.

Aside from opposing political censorship, Shapira says the episode "tells the Palestinian experience from various viewpoints. It shows the bereavement on both sides. It is very hard to watch, but it must be watched."

Shapira adds that "most of the criticism of the film is coming from people who never saw it." Livnat, has not seen the episode in question, a ministry spokeswoman said.

In the last three weeks, ever since Yediot published her name in a front-page story about Gaon's resignation, Weiss-

Berkowitz says she has received "more than 20" anonymous telephone death threats and hate calls.

"They call my home and say, 'We will burn you,' 'You f--- Arabs,' 'You stinking leftist, we know where you live.'"

The director notes that she received similar calls shortly after Rabin's assassination, when Channel 2 screened her documentary on the right-wing demonstrations against Rabin, and another on how "little [Baruch] Goldsteins," in her words, were being raised in Hebron.

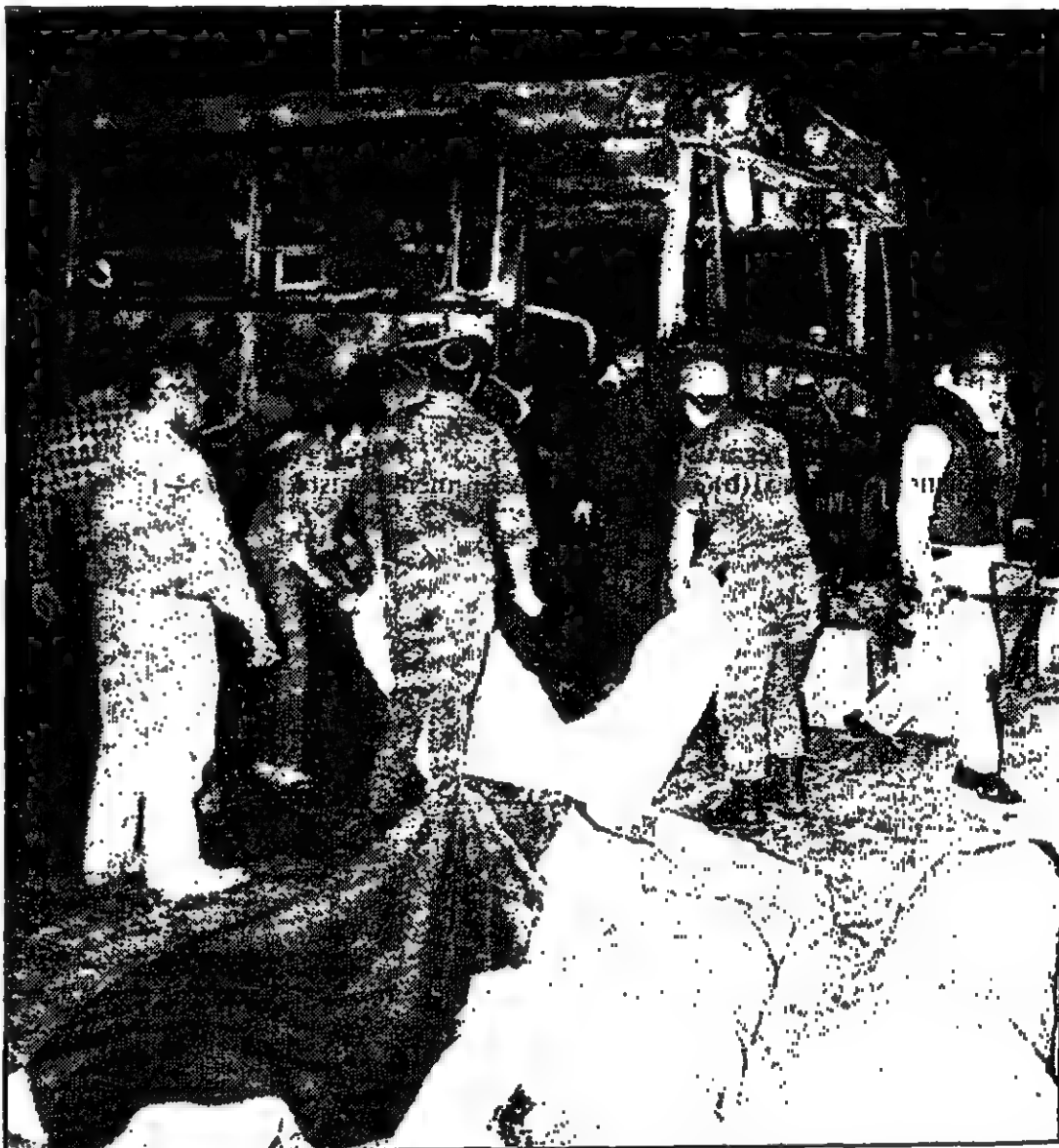
"But this is the first time I've ever been threatened before my film was even broadcast," she points out.

Weiss-Berkowitz says that after the episode was shown at the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, "some Israeli terror victims came up to me and complained, 'You showed the terrorists as heroes.' And some Palestinians who watched the film complained, 'You showed us as killers.'"

It seems Israeli viewers will not be the only ones upset over "On the Path to Terror - My Homeland, My Homeland." There are, after all, two sides to this story.



(Yossi Rabin)



(Yossi Rabin)

(Top) Writer-director Weiss-Berkowitz denies she has made a Palestinian propaganda film; (above) The Coastal Road bus attack in 1978 was a numbing blow for Israelis. The film aims to show why Palestinians began to see terror as a solution.

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# Don't a borrower be

For three decades inflation was a regular bedfellow for the average Israeli. Wage earners went to sleep with it at night and woke up with it in the morning. It was part of the landscape, and everyone learned how to live with it.

But now inflation is approaching the level acceptable in Western industrialized nations. Economists and analysts are predicting that in 1998 it will hover around 5 percent, and maybe even sink as deep as 3%, and in any event settle well under the government's 7% target for 1998.

Even Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, who more than anyone else is credited with the increasingly successful war on inflation, apparently did not forecast the latest developments on that front.

"No one has yet come to grips with what this low inflation means," says Pinchas Landau, CEO of business consultancy Euro Strategies Ltd. "It will cause massive changes in the way people conduct business."

What we have witnessed in the past six months — with four cost-of-living indexes diving below zero and semi-annual inflation plunging below the 2% level — will be seen as a turning point, says Landau. "The whole problem,"

Dipping inflation rates are forcing us to change our financial outlook and mend the spendthrift habits we honed to a fine art during the days of routine price hikes. **Nina Gilbert reports**

according to Landau, "is that the economy has been running for 30 years on index-linked savings."

BACK IN the days of hyperinflation, which peaked in the mid 1980s at 415%, salaries were immediately emptied from current accounts and spent on anything from stocks to durable goods by a public that lived in constant financial uncertainty.

While much of that hysteria has diminished since the launch of the 1985 stabilization plan, the economy nonetheless remained organized around inflationary norms, whether in consumer prices, wage agreements, mortgage plans or savings accounts.

Opponents of Frenkel's policies have argued that a certain level of inflation is necessary to maintain overall economic growth, and that the present low rate is merely a symptom of a severe economic slowdown.

But whether or not other economic actors like it, Frenkel's determination to beat inflation has changed expectations. It is now beginning to change the way wage earners think.

ECONOMISTS emphasize that high inflation causes economic uncertainty and low inflation enables wage earners to better manage their money.

"The higher the inflation, the higher the volatility. In such a situation, there is uncertainty, which has an economic burden," says Shauli Katznelson, chief economist at Israel Discount Bank. "People are forced to make decisions under more difficult conditions."

Understandably, then, as they enter a new era of price stability wage earners have reason to rejoice. According to Katznelson, when inflation is low wage earners can plan better. They know what their income will be worth and can better

manage savings and consumption, since they face a reduced risk of a sudden erosion in income, he says.

"Low inflation gives a greater degree of certainty of purchasing power. There is also less risk of erosion of wages," adds Akiva Offenbacher, assistant director of the Bank of Israel's monetary department. "In high inflation, windfalls are made by more financially sophisticated actors, who are better equipped to deal with uncertainty," Offenbacher notes.

Landau believes that prices will remain stable owing to structural changes which have relaxed import restrictions and now are effectively pushing local prices down.

"It will be harder for businesses to raise prices, since such moves will be more obvious in a competitive, deflationary market," Landau notes. At the same time, he says, companies will be under pressure to increase real earnings and avoid wage increases.

Perhaps more than anyone else, mortgage payers stand to benefit most from the new situation, after years when monthly increments often outpaced their salary adjustments, and after a few years grew into financial monstrosities some of them could no longer repay.

Yet even mortgage bankers welcome the dawn of low inflation. In such a setting, says Yisrael Segal of Bank Tefahot, monthly mortgage payments can more easily be predicted and paid on schedule, with minimal monthly adjustments.

However, mortgage rates have climbed over the past year from just under 5% to about 6.5%, and may even rise further due to the generally high interest rates and the state of the

bond markets — where the mortgage banks invest their money — since index-linked issues are dropping on expectations of low inflation.

At any rate, mortgage banks won't be greatly affected by low inflation, since the money they enlist for loans is also index-linked, says Segal. While consumers and savers can expect better times, the ones who stand to suffer are borrowers, according to Landau.

Indeed, at present, all agree that those with overdrafts are the biggest losers.

THE OVERDRAFT is arguably the worst symptom of the inflation disease.

There was a time when it paid to borrow to buy goods whose prices could rise unpredictably. "The traditional approach says that in an inflationary situation, savers lose and buyers win," Offenbacher notes.

As Landau puts it, "people with overdrafts are being massacred now. They will eventually realize this."

At present, real term interest rates are very high, he says, and overall you don't want to be a borrower. Katznelson says the high interest rates on overdrafts are the result of inflation dropping much more rapidly than interest rates.

Real interest on overdrafts is at a peak since 1985. Interest on overdrafts run at about 17% beyond NIS 1,000 but within a credit line. Beyond the credit line, the interest rate is about 20%.

For those who do have money, both the analysts and economists agree that investments other than inflation-linked savings plans will eventually become more attractive as real interest rates decrease.

"We are in a disinflationary process whose patterns are well known," says Landau. Ultimately, he predicts, investors will flock to stocks and bonds, consequently generating a complete reversal of savings and investment patterns in the country.

"This is bad news for the banking sector as a whole, and will speed up the process of concentration of the banks. We will be seeing mergers and acquisitions," he says.

Offenbacher believes banks will have to diversify their financial products innovatively.

Another change in the way money is managed will result in a shift from traditional investments such as savings plans and real estate.

In a non-inflationary setting, the attractiveness of real estate



drops significantly. Israelis became accustomed to investing in real estate, buying apartments for their children as a way to ensure the value of their money, says Landau. Now the more sophisticated investors will make

in which around 25% is in the stock market is reasonable, he believes. Almost all investments today are good for those with money, he notes, and for those in overdraft, it is better to take a loan today.

According to Amir Hessel, direc-

**"No one has yet come to grips with what this low inflation means. It will cause massive changes in the way people conduct business."**

— Pinchas Landau, CEO Euro Strategies Ltd.

overseas investments with the liberalization of foreign currency rules, he says.

Eyal Kolka, head of the economic department at Sigma PCM Capital Markets, says a good investment in the medium- and short-term is the stock market. In an international and historical perspective, he says, shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange are very cheap in relation to the value of the companies," Kolka says.

The fear of the market is psychological. A wide investment portfolio

tor of the economic department at the Bank Leumi investment house, assuming that inflation declines faster than interest rates, shekel savings and shekel-linked mutual funds should now be most attractive.

Still, Bank Hapoalim, Israel's largest financial institution, said it is not offering any special products due to the dawn of low inflation. There are a range of options for savings plans to accommodate the changing situation in interest rates, inflation and foreign currency, a bank spokesperson said.

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# Recovering looted art: A rich man's game

An impending trial pitting the heirs of a German Jew whose artwork was stolen by the Nazis against a private US collector may set a legal precedent. But, as Marilyn Henry reports, the costs of such claims are prohibitive

The way Lloyd Goldenberg sees it, to recover art that was looted by the Nazis, Holocaust survivors and heirs need an 800-pound gorilla. Goldenberg's firm located a plundered Degas painting, currently the focus of what promises to be a precedent-setting art restitution case.

This week a bipartisan group of congressmen introduced legislation to create a Presidential Commission on Holocaust Assets in the US. It appears the commission would have the teeth, but its client would be history, not Holocaust survivors.

"It is important that we know what art, gold, jewelry, bank accounts and other valuables were taken from Holocaust victims and ended up in the US," said New York Senator Alfonse D'Amato. "We need to know how many of these assets got through, where they are now and what became of them. The spirit of American decency demands no less."

The congressional measure, which is expected to pass quickly and easily, would create a 23-member presidential commission of politicians and private individuals that, by December 31, 1999, will submit recommendations to the president on what to do about Nazi loot in the US. It intends to conduct research on the collection and disposition of Nazi victims' assets under US military and government control from 1933.

But no one is going to advise a claimant to call the White House. The usual — and most expensive — advice is to call a lawyer.

UNDER American legal principles, if something is stolen it cannot acquire clear title. Time does not wash away the taint of the original theft.

"If my bike is stolen and I see it in my neighbor's yard, I don't call a lawyer. I call the police," said Eli Rosenbaum, director of the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations.

But American criminal law is not an option for Nazi-looted art a half-century after the war. There is too much time and legal distance between the original European owner, from whom the art was stolen, and the current owner, who probably bought it in good faith. The usual remedy is civil law, says Rosenbaum, who notes that "Justice is expensive."

Allies collected looted art after the war and turned it over to European governments, who were expected to locate the owners or heirs. However, across the continent, governments have been charged with failing to seek the owners and, instead, using the art to stock their national museums.

Last month, Austria's minister of culture, Elisabeth Gehrer, said her government was prepared to return to Holocaust victims art that had been looted by the Nazis and later retained by the Viennese government as national treasure.

The gesture did not come out of the blue. Instead, it followed the bid last December of two families to recover two Egon Schiele paintings that an Austrian-financed foundation had lent to New York's Museum of Modern

Art. The heirs of Lea Bondi Jaray of Vienna claimed that "Portrait of Wally" had been plundered by the Nazis. The heirs of Fritz Grunbaum made a similar claim for "Dead City."

The museum rebuffed the heirs' request to detain the two paintings, saying that they were contractually bound to return them to Austria, and that any detention would disrupt the orderly conduct of international exhibitions.

However, MOMA hinted that the claimants should hire a lawyer. Instead, the Manhattan district attorney, Robert Morgenthau, seized the paintings until their ownership could be determined.

A few weeks after the Austrian government's announcement, however, the Dutch government rejected the claims of the American heirs of Jacques Goudstikker for more than 100 paintings that were acquired by Hermann Goering, turned over to the Dutch government after the war, and now hang in a dozen Dutch museums.

The Netherlands argued that Goudstikker's widow had decided in 1952 not to seek the paintings. However, the widow's heirs countered that she had been duped under duress into abandoning the claim.

THE MOMA imbroglio created the public appearance that museums had turned a blind eye to the fact that they may have become fences for stolen art. Since then, the Association of Art Museum Directors has formed a 13-member task force to develop guidelines for museums to deal with disputes on ownership.

"We have always been firmly committed to resolving questions when and if they arise about any such works of art in the collection," Philippe de Montebello, director of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art, told a congressional hearing in February.

But Lloyd Goldenberg, a partner in Trans-Art, a Washington DC-based firm that investigates the "background" of art work, dismisses the museums' stance as sanctimonious.

"The American museums are lionized as great paragons of virtue, but in the last three years, you have not seen a museum community that has bent over backward to be forthcoming and expedite the recovery by the claimant," said Goldenberg.

Governments and museums, as public institutions, are expected to operate for the public good and may be susceptible to public pressure. But while they may be inclined to relinquish an artwork and enjoy favorable publicity as a result, private collectors are not likely to cede a valuable asset without compensation, just for the sake of public relations.

THE FIRST American case pitting heirs against a private collector is nearing its trial date in federal court in Chicago. It is over a monotype by Edgar Degas, known by its description "Landscape With Smokestacks."

It was stolen from Friedrich Gutmann, a German Jewish banker who was beaten to death



"Portrait of Wally," one of two Egon Schiele paintings lent by an Austrian-financed foundation to New York's Museum of Modern Art. Two families who claimed the works had been plundered by the Nazis attempted to recover them last December — the museum rebuffed them.

in Theresienstadt. His wife, Louise, died in Auschwitz. Gutmann's grandsons, Nick and Simon Goodman, are suing the current owner, Daniel Searle, a

argue that because the work was stolen Searle is bound to give it up. They also charge that because the Degas' provenance included the name of Hans Wendland, a

prepared to shell out at least \$100,000 just for the expenses, experts say. To raise the cash, last month the Goodmans placed an ad in the weekly Jewish newspaper *The Forward* asking for donations for a legal defense fund.

In their quest to recover the art collection, Gutmann's grandsons have become something of an employment service. They have hired researchers to comb through archives on several continents, to scour libraries and galleries around the globe, and to troll through art books and catalogs for any reference to the artist.

British citizens now living in Southern California, the Goodmans have engaged attorneys in three different cities, translators for documents in five different languages, and international couriers.

As the Degas trial approaches, they have had to cover the costs of depositions of witnesses, who must be flown to Illinois, fed, and lodged in hotels. If the witness is a professional or an expert, such as a museum curator or author, the Goodmans must also pay a fee for the witness's time.

The costs of litigation are "astounding," said Thomas Kline, the primary lawyer representing the Goodmans for the Degas. "I am almost at the point where I would say that if the art is worth less than \$3 million, give up."

There have been suggestions that the museum community develop arbitration standards for disputed art which would replace civil lawsuits to resolve claims and cut expenses. But such a system would be voluntary, would not be universal and would still entail some expenses.

Some attorneys are handling the American cases pro bono, but again, there are legal expenses that cannot be controlled.

THE B'nai B'rith National Jewish Museum and the World Jewish Congress each set up art restitution projects last fall, but these focus on research and do not directly support litigation by individual claimants. The proposed presidential commission, according to a State Department fact sheet released Wednesday, "is not a vehicle for restitution or a body that can adjudicate claims."

So, although the recovery of looted art has found its place on the international Jewish communal agenda and onto the floor of Congress, individual survivors

collectors to be less easygoing about investigating artworks' legal status before purchase. "This is not a quixotic use of the money," he said.

**'My brother and I are not well-to-do, just driven. We are like British bulldogs. We have our teeth in this'**

— Simon Goodman

Chicago businessman, who bought the Degas for \$850,000 in 1987.

Searle, a benefactor of the Chicago Institute of Art, contends that he bought the Degas in "good faith," and that the Goodmans did not show "due diligence" in looking for it.

The Goodmans located the artwork several years ago with the help of Goldenberg's partner, Willi Korte. In their suit, they

Nazi-allied art dealer, Searle's art advisers should have been more cautious about the legal status of the art.

The Degas trial is likely to set a precedent in art restitution cases, no matter which side wins. And as the most advanced of the civil cases, it also illuminates the prohibitive expenses of pursuing an individual claim.

To get justice in the American courts, the claimants should be

**On the astonishing costs of litigation: 'I am almost at the point where I would say that if the art is worth less than \$3 million, give up'**

— the Goodmans' attorney

and heirs still are left to fend for themselves, and often are forced to abandon claims because the value of the art is less than the cost of the battles to recover it.

"My brother and I are not well-to-do. We are just driven. We are like British bulldogs. We have our teeth in this," Simon Goodman said.

Private collectors, he says, are wealthy. "If they were faced with a claim from [a billionaire], they might behave differently. But they are faced with Nick and Simon Goodman and say, 'We can outspend these whippersnappers.'"

If claimants are entitled to justice and justice is meted out by the courts, claimants should not be denied access to justice because they are outspent, say advocates for the heirs. This is where Goldenberg's gorilla comes in.

"For museums, galleries and collectors to say 'I was a good-faith purchaser' is not a good [legal] defense in the US," Goldenberg said. He insists that many claimants could prevail against such an argument. "The only thing missing," he says, "is the ability to go eyeball to eyeball."

He believes that a healthy litigation fund would alleviate the problem for vetted claimants by turning them, as a class, into "meaningful adversaries."

The art trade pays less attention to legal ownership of a work than what is required by the transfer of a house or car, experts say. Goldenberg suggested that the existence of a defense fund would not only give collectors an incentive to return looted art, but also a powerful motive for dealers and

THE VALIDITY of a claim is not sufficient to impress a current owner to surrender a work of art, Goldenberg said. "Collectors are not going to simply say, 'Okay, I am going to settle this claim,'" he said. "You need a deep-pocket adversary."

"If there was some semblance of an 800-pound gorilla out there, there would be pressure on collectors to return things." In an almost poetic twist, it is possible that the resources for such a fund could conceivably come from the thieves and their accomplices.

Last summer, the Swiss banks published a list of 1,800 names associated with Holocaust-era foreign dormant accounts. Interspersed with the names of Nazi victims were those of a handful of perpetrators and profiteers including Hans Wendland, the German art dealer and fence who is listed on the Degas provenance.

The Wendland and other Nazi accounts, currently blocked by the Swiss, could theoretically be made available for a charitable purpose such as the recovery of art. At the moment there are no other alternatives.

"Since my brother and I started," said Goodman, "I have seen a whole industry develop on this." There have been books published, conferences held and TV shows aired on the Nazis' plundering of Jewish art.

"The Degas was hanging on my grandmother's drawing room wall and she ended up in a gas chamber. I cannot let it go," said Goodman. "People express interest and sympathy, but there is no specific help for survivors or heirs."

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# Guiding hand that is sorely missed

Aura Herzog is fond of saying that she was married to five husbands: the military man, the politician and statesman, the lawyer, the businessman and the writer. Which did she like best?

"The author, because it was creative," comes the unhesitating reply. "It was something he did well. It wasn't imposed on him." Her husband loved the discipline and research involved in writing, Herzog recalls. He would close himself up in his study and she would respect his need to be alone with his work. (For many years, Herzog contributed regular opinion pieces to *The Jerusalem Post*.)

On Monday April 6, the 10th of Nisan, it will be a year since Herzog, Israel's sixth president, died. Of 5,000 condolence letters, Aura Herzog answered half personally, hoping the undertaking would prove therapeutic. It didn't. Time hasn't been much of a healer, she says, seated in the Chaim Herzog conference room of Herzog, Fox and Neeman, the law firm her husband founded in 1972, and in which her third son Isaac is now a partner. (Neeman is now the finance minister, Yaakov Neeman.)

She does, however, derive some comfort from going over her husband's files. "The more I read," she says, "the more I realize that I was married to an exceptional person."

Herzog knew that her husband was going to help new immigrants — but only after his death did she discover 300 "fascinating" files detailing his efforts to assist newcomers who had appealed to him.

All three of Herzog's sons have followed in his footsteps in one sense or another. Joel, the eldest, is a successful businessman; Michael

A year after the death of Chaim Herzog, Greer Fay Cashman hears about the family man behind the many-faceted public figure



Aura and Isaac Herzog in front of a portrait of the man who meant so much to them: Time hasn't been a great healer.

is a senior army officer and Isaac, known as Boujie, is a lawyer and a political activist. Their sister

Ronit is a psychologist.

Aura Herzog recalls her husband's delight when one of his

sons decided to make the army his career. Herzog's own father, chief rabbi Isaac Halevy Herzog, had

told him: "If you can't be a rabbi, be an army man."

Her husband was "an extraordinary family man," says Aura Herzog. "He remembered nephews, nieces and cousins. He gave special attention to his brother's children. When his uncle Reuben Goldberg died in Shanghai, he went to a lot of trouble to get his prayer books."

"He was a freak of family genealogy," adds Isaac. "It was important for him to keep contacts." Of all the things his father gave him, Isaac considers honesty the most important. "He taught me: 'Always say what you think.'"

What events connected with his father stand out in his mind? Traveling along the Champs Elysees, he smiles. On a more somber note, he recalls his father's visit as president of Israel to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. As an officer in the British army Herzog had helped liberate France; he was also among the liberators of Bergen-Belsen.

Even more moving, adds Aura Herzog, was being present at the historic reconciliation with the King of Spain, 500 years after the expulsion of the Jews in 1492.

Herzog's most important legacy to his family was a sense of commitment to community service. Appointed by the prime minister to head the committee organizing Israel's jubilee celebrations, he died on the day it was first scheduled to meet, having suffered more than seven months of foot-dragging over nominations for the other members. After his death, the prime minister asked Aura Herzog to assume her husband's mantle, which she did for three months before resigning. There was just too much manipulation and intrigue, she says.

ISAAC CITES many instances over the past year in which Herzog's wisdom and guidance were missed: the Bar-On Affair, in which his father's legal expertise would have proved valuable; the Maashai Affair, where his experience as an intelligence officer and statesman would certainly have served; and the threat of a second Gulf War, where those who remembered Herzog's comforting broadcasts during the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars might have taken comfort, his son says, from Herzog's calming voice as the situation with Iraq heated up.

And, he adds, as a witness to all streams of society, Herzog could have contributed much toward a haredi-secular rapprochement.

What happened between Ezer Weizman and Shaul Amos in the recent presidential election would have caused his father a great deal of pain, says Isaac. He would have viewed them as "throwing mud" and "ruining the beauty" of the presidency. When Herzog stood for a second term, his son points out, he ran unopposed and was reelected by 116 votes.

THE HERZOG family has been busy with memorial projects.

First was the Chaim Herzog Middle East Diplomacy Center at Ben-Gurion University, inaugurated six weeks after Herzog's death — though the arrangements were made long before, since Herzog in his latter years looked forward to involving himself in academia. In May the center will hold a conference called "Interaction between Diplomacy and the Media."

Schools in Holon, Kfar Sava and Mazkeret Batya have been named after Herzog; the Postal Authority has issued a stamp in his memory.

A memorial web site — [www.herzog.org.il/home.htm](http://www.herzog.org.il/home.htm) — has been set up with comprehensive data in Hebrew and English, but the Herzogs still get phone calls, letters and e-mail from schoolchildren doing projects on Israel's sixth president. They want to know more about Herzog; sometimes they just want to talk to someone who was close to him.

NATIONAL institutions are also keen to make the man and his contribution to Israel and the Jewish people more widely known.

This month the intelligence community's main military base will incorporate Chaim Herzog's name into its own, and will be holding a special introspective memorial evening.

A park in Jerusalem's Ir Ganim neighborhood will be named the Herzog Park, and a Herzog commemorative coin will be issued on Sunday.

On Monday, there will be a graveside memorial service on Mount Herzl, followed by a tribute at Beit Hanassi, where speakers will include President Ezer Weizman, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak and Professor Shlomo Avineri, who was director-general of the Foreign Ministry when Herzog was ambassador to the UN.

There will be a special Chaim Herzog memorial session in the Knesset in May, when the Education Ministry will also be sponsoring a number of commemorative events.

A documentary film on Herzog's life and times will soon be completed, and will be televised later this year.

## Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

Until she found her parents' letters to each other she never realized that her mother and father had each kept those letters. Emunah Yaron, daughter of Nobel Prize laureate Shai Agnon, said. She was talking to pupils, parents, grandparents and friends of the Pelech Religious Experimental High School for Girls at a fundraising performance of *Dearest Estherlein*, a play based on the letters.

There had been some criticism about her making the letters public, Yaron noted, but added that after seeing the play three times she was convinced she had made the right decision.

She had viewed it with trepidation the first time around, she said, apprehensive about how her parents would be portrayed on stage. But she was immediately captivated by the actors.

As a child, Yaron confessed, she had been jealous of the typewriter because it occupied so much of her mother's time. (Her mother edited her father's work.)

At school she learned that it wasn't always a pleasant thing to be a famous writer's daughter, always singled out. Still defensive about it many years later, Yaron observed that she hadn't asked for the reflected glory.



Sculptor Ilana Goor owns over 750 pairs of shoes.

(Elon Bashori)

MOVE over, Imelda Marcos, here comes Ilana Goor. The former first lady of the Philippines, famous for her shoe fetish, is facing serious competition from Israeli sculptor and jewelry maker Ilana Goor, who owns more than 750 pairs of shoes. "I'm always on my feet so I change my shoes at least three times a day," said Goor at the opening of her new exhibit at Trezor Jewellers in Tel Aviv.

As always the exhibit contains many birds, which to Goor are the ultimate symbols of freedom. Although she does not consciously mix politics with art, Goor admits there is a subconscious interfacing. Her doves are currently militant, "more like falcons with their talons poised."

In addition to preparing her exhibition, Goor has been busy turning her museum in Jaffa into a nonprofit organization, of which Labor MK Shimon Peres is the chairman. Goor intends to run special courses there for Bezalet graduates "so they can learn more about the realities of life."

LESS than a year after presenting his credentials to President Ezer Weizman, Esi Yong Chung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea, has been recalled. No, he hasn't done anything wrong — he's been promoted to the number two slot in his country's new Foreign and Trade Ministry.

IDENTICAL twin brothers Roger and Maurice Pinto, the key figures in the French philanthropic organization Sion, were the leaders of a 102-member French delegation to Israel which included 54 parliamentarians and mayors. Although they met with several prominent per-



Belle Goldstein, 102, will have to make do with one seder a year.

(Joe Malcolm)

sonalities, what appeared to interest them most was a retrospective fashion show at the Hyatt Regency Jerusalem, staged by Shalva Ben-Gal.

The show, which Ben-Gal is taking around the world, is a spoof on 50 years of Israeli fashion. The visitors were particularly enamored of the Israeli models, who included beauty queens Lilah Ben-Simon, Ravit Assaf and Tali Levental, with whom they later posed for photos.

## SRULIK

by DOSH



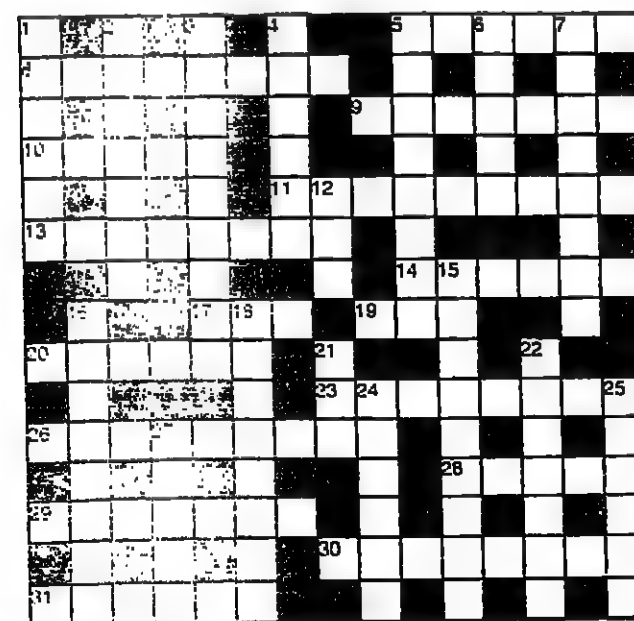
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 5 Opportunity to gamble (6)
- 8 Continental process in quarters (7)
- 9 Satisfying money in office temple's work (7)
- 10 Result of summing up? (5)
- 11 Notice objective is to gain entry (9)
- 13 Oriental learning about evil in Hamlet's (6)
- 14 An agon wreck has things to do (6)
- 17 Ferret out secrets when I can lend a child's play (3)
- 19 Small US state doing badly (3)
- 20 Presentable young girl to be in discussion (9)
- 23 Very important road I put through waterway (8)
- 26 Mild beverage that may come through letterbox (9)

### DOWN

- 28 Bit of a champagne-swilling woman (5)
- 29 Board presenting artist with a range of options (7)
- 30 Event where opponents can make a big advance (3-2-3)
- 31 Guard dispatched to the lines (6)
- 1 Get monarch to safety in stronghold (6)
- 2 He'll drill you in doing 9 (7)
- 3 Leader perhaps always on the fiddle (8)
- 4 Execute a king in 7's shed (6)



### DOWN

- 5 Exercising judgement is very important (8)
- 6 Finally lost footing in the mountains (5)
- 7 Aeroplane's solid figure — string used inside (5)
- 12 What's dropped on the lawn we'd get picked up (3)
- 15 In Roman days he was a beastly fighter (9)
- 18 Demote, for example, in recount (8)
- 19 Footling arguments from small boy in place of butler (8)
- 21 One is an expert (3)
- 22 Mysterious handsome man now has name (7)
- 24 In love affair, have the right personal protection (6)
- 25 Amazing result brings distinction (6)
- 27 Pudding is dear (5)

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ACROSS: 1 Filer, 4 Weigh, 10 Embassy, 11 Allot, 12 Chary, 13 Protest, 18 Egan, 17 Crude, 19 Abuse, 22 Armo, 25 Bristol, 27 Debar, 28 Deity, 29 Emulate, 31 Truth, 32 Knoll.  
DOWN: 5 Libra, 3 Essayed, 5 Erase, 6 Gilbert, 7 Mercy, 8 Myope, 9 State, 14 Foam, 16 Peal, 18 Rainier, 20 Bedouin, 21 Abode, 23 Corns, 24 Greek, 26 Trypet, 28 Brawl.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 7 Breed of dog (6)
- 8 Crude (6)
- 10 Salad plant (7)
- 11 Around (5)
- 12 Rotate (4)
- 13 Situation (5)
- 17 Rapid (5)
- 18 Ready money (4)
- 22 Shore (5)
- 23 Farm vehicle (7)
- 24 Wanderer (6)
- 25 Accuse (6)

### DOWN

- 1 Set apart (7)
- 2 Height (7)
- 3 Goddess of love (5)
- 4 Sentimental tale (7)
- 5 Rivulet (5)
- 6 Unimportant (5)
- 9 Copy (9)
- 14 Cattle-thief (7)
- 15 Ecstatic joy (7)
- 16 Abbreviate (7)
- 19 Muffler (5)
- 20 Deadly (5)
- 21 Sailing-boat (5)

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### HABITAT REAL ESTATE, Talbich / Kiryat Shmuel, 3, luxurious, renovated, 500 sq.m., exclusive through R/E MAX - EVA SACHS Tel. 052-601-973 [88]

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## Inside

## FA Cup preview

Page 23

## Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman &amp; Ori Lewis

## SCOREBOARD

**SOCCER - Cup Winners' Cup:** Host Vicenza beat Chelsea 1-0, and host VfB Stuttgart beat Lokomotiv Moscow 2-1 in the semifinal first leg last night.

**BASKETBALL - Partizan Belgrade** beat CSKA Moscow 89-77 and Benetton Treviso beat Efes Pilsen 76-68 in EuroLeague quarter-final playoffs yesterday. Partizan meets Kinder Bologna and Treviso faces AEK Athens in the Final Four tournament in Barcelona on April 21.

## Clemens, Martinez shine in season debuts

Last season's Cy Young winners lift Blue Jays, Bosox

TORONTO (AP) — Roger Clemens, coming off his fourth AL Cy Young Award, allowed only two hits in seven innings in pitching the Toronto Blue Jays past the Minnesota Twins 3-2 Wednesday night in a season opener.

A crowd of 41,387 saw Tim Lincecum win his first game as a major league manager.

Jose Cruz Jr. hit a two-run homer in the second inning and an RBI triple in the fifth, and also sin-

gled. Randy Myers, Toronto's top off-season acquisition, pitched a scoreless ninth for a save.

Clemens, who won 21 games last year, gave up a seeing-eye single by Pat Meares and a double by Paul Molitor. He permitted one run, struck out three and walked three.

Orioles 10, Royals 1

Cal Ripken's eighth career grand slam capped a five-run first inning that lifted host Baltimore to its first win under manager Ray Miller.

Lenny Webster hit two solo homers, and Jeffrey Hammonds had one for the Orioles, whose five hits in the first matched their total Tuesday in a 4-1 season-opening loss to the Royals.

Scott Erickson pitched a four-hitter for his 100th career victory. The right-hander struck out five and walked one to improve his major-league record to 100-83.

See BASEBALL, Page 23



**LOCKED OUT** — Diamondbacks catcher Jorge Fabregas tags out Rockies' Curtis Goodwin, who was trying to score on a ninth-inning Larry Walker double. Colorado won 6-0.

## Israel, Austria do battle in Davis Cup

By ORI LEWIS

Israel hosts its first Davis Cup tie in two years this weekend when it takes on Austria in the Euro/African Zone I encounter at the Israel Tennis Center at Ramat Hasharon beginning today at 14:00.

The two teams field young players with a relatively low world ranking and comparatively little experience in the rough-and-tumble of the Davis Cup. Israel's Eyal Erlich (179 in the ATP rankings) and Amir Hadad (271) take on respective opponents Gerald Mandl (209) and Stefan Koubek (149).

Had Austria fielded their two top players (Thomas Muster and Gilbert Schaller), things might have looked very different. But Schaller has been injured for some time and Muster declared himself unavailable for the tie.

Israel captain Shlomo Glickstein was in subdued mood at yesterday's draw at the Accadia Hotel in Herzliya. He said there could be no way of predicting the outcome: "There are no favorites in this tie. None of the players stands out from the others, so I expect the matches to be very evenly balanced and drawn out affairs."

Erlich, at 21, is playing for the first time as the Israeli No. 1. His combined singles and doubles Davis Cup record is 6-4. Second racket Amir Hadad, 20, is making his debut on court, although he was a member of the team which lost to Slovakia in last year's competition. Glickstein has gambled on Hadad, thereby dumping longtime singles stalwart Eyal Ran. The 25-year-old Ran is the most experienced of the Israelis with 11 ties under his belt, but his record is not impressive, having won four and lost seven of his matches.

Glickstein named Ran and Noam Behr for

tomorrow's doubles while Austrian captain Gunther Bresnik chose Thomas Buchmayr and Wolfgang Schranz.

Sunday's reverse singles will begin at 14:00 with the opposing No. 1 rackets (Erlich and Koubek) playing in the first match followed by the No. 2s (Hadad and Mandl).

Israel has a 1-2 record against Austria. Austria won in 1963 with a home 5-0 whitewash, and in 1978, 3-2 in Ramat Hasharon. In 1985, Israel won in Hartberg 3-2 when the legendary team of Glickstein, Mandorff, Perkis and Bloom began the golden age of Israeli tennis.

Israel's last real victory in the competition came in 1996 with a win over Norway. Since then there has been a home defeat by Spain (1996), an away loss to Slovakia and a home victory by default over Morocco (both in 1997).

Tickets for the tie (required only by adults) are available at the gate.

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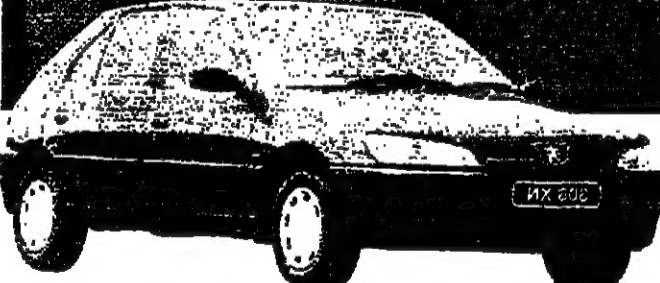
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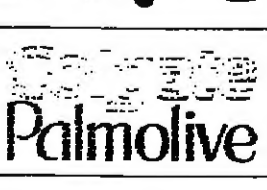
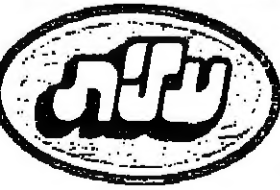
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## Dortmun protests

FRANKFURT (AP) Borussia Dortmund, Champions Cup holders, protested to UEFA over "unfair conditions" in its final loss to Real Madrid.

Dortmund hopes to gain a replay of the match awarded victory by UEFA. "The game was a farce. UEFA either has to let the match or give us the Dortmund presidency," Niebaum said.

The game Wednesday in Madrid started with a minute delay after 1200 brought down one Israeli frame.

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